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Prayers

OFFERED BY THE CHAPLAIN
REV. BERNARD BRASKAMP, D. D.
AT THE OPENING OF THE DAILY SESSIONS OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES
DURING THE EIGHTY-THIRD AND
EIGHTY-FOURTH CONGRESSES
1953–1956

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U. S. Congress. House.

84th Congress, 2d Session - - - - - House Document No. 473

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UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON : 1956

House Resolution No. 454

[Submitted by Mr. WALTER of Pennsylvania]

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

January 30, 1950.

Resolved, That Reverend Bernard Braskamp, of the District of Columbia, be, and he is hereby, chosen Chaplain of the House of Representatives.

Theology Library
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California

Dedicated

to the memory of

MY FATHER AND MOTHER

in

Grateful Acknowledgment

of their

Sacrificial Love and Unfaltering Faith

OCT 27 '59 Kasom

House Resolution 439

[Submitted by Mr. Burleson of Texas]

In the House of Representatives,
March 21, 1956.

Resolved, That the prayers offered by the Chaplain, the Reverend Bernard Braskamp, doctor of divinity, at the opening of the daily sessions of the House of Representatives of the United States from January 3, 1953 to the end of the Eighty-fourth Congress be printed as a House document, and that two thousand additional copies be printed and bound for the use of the House of Representatives, to be distributed by the Chaplain of the House of Representatives.

Introduction

By resolution of the House of Representatives, adopted in the Eighty-fourth Congress, authorization was granted for the printing of the prayers of the Chaplain of the House of Representatives, the Reverend Bernard Braskamp.

Dr. Braskamp has been Chaplain of the House since 1950, following forty years of service as pastor of churches in the Washington area.

I do not know of anyone who enjoys in such notable degree the respect and affection of the entire membership of the House as does Dr. Braskamp. To the membership of the House of Representatives, he is counsellor, friend, and brother. The reader of this volume will find his prayers both fervent and inspiring, giving impulse to the sacredness of duty in the public service.

In publishing this volume of his prayers, we feel that we are rendering a public service and commend them to good people everywhere.

Respectfully,

Sam Rayburn

Speaker, House of Representatives.

Tribute

Remarks by Representative Charles B. Hoeven

OF IOWA

FEBRUARY 1, 1950

Mr. Speaker, I am highly pleased over the appointment of Rev. Bernard Braskamp, D. D., as Chaplain of the House of Representatives, to succeed retiring Rev. James Shera Montgomery, D. D. My home town of Alton, Iowa, is greatly honored to have one of its native sons selected for this distinguished position, for this little town of Alton, where I reside, is the place where Dr. Braskamp was born and grew to manhood

Another lifelong friend of Dr. Braskamp and one who takes particular pleasure in his election as Chaplain is Claude S. Scheckel, one of the Official Reporters of Debates in the House of Representatives. Dr. Braskamp, Mr. Scheckel, and I have known each other since childhood, all three being from Alton. It is a remarkable coincidence that the three of us meet again here in the great forum of the House of Representatives.

Dr. Braskamp, who has spent his entire ministry of 39 years in Washington, is the dean among the 42 pastors of the Washington City Presbytery in length of service. It is stated that among the several hundred clergy in Washington of the Protestant, Catholic, and Hebrew faiths there is only one in the active pastorate who exceeds him in the record of length of service. In 1951, when he completes his 40 years in his Washington pastorate, he plans to write a book entitled "Forty Years a Minister in the Nation's Capital."

The Gurley Memorial Presbyterian Church, which was his first church after being associated with Dr. Charles Wood in the Church of the Covenant, is in fact still his one and only church. It was named in memory of Dr. Phineas D. Gurley, Chaplain of the United States Senate and pastor of the historic New York Avenue Presbyterian Church where President Abraham Lincoln worshipped. Dr. Braskamp was the leader when the Gurley congregation built a new house of worship, and 7 years later he became the leader in merging the Gurley and Gunton-Temple Congregations and in the erection of their present church at Sixteenth and Newton Streets.

During the past 10 years he has officiated more than 175 times as Acting Chaplain in the House, substituting for Dr. Montgomery. During these past 10 years he has also been the Acting Chaplain in the Senate on more

than 75 occasions and during the entire 1948 Special Session of the Congress and the vacation periods of Chaplain Dr. Frederick Brown Harris and the late Chaplain, Dr. Peter Marshall.

Dr. Braskamp pursued his education and received degrees from the following schools: Public school in Alton, Iowa; graduated from the Northwestern Classical Academy at Orange City, Iowa, in 1903; first 2 years of college study at Grinnell, Iowa; graduated from the University of Michigan with the degree of bachelor of arts in 1908; first year of theological training in Hartford, Conn.; last 2 years of theological training in Princeton Seminary, graduating in 1911; received the degree of master of arts from Princeton University in 1911, having taken his studies in the department of philosophy. In June 1930 Hanover College of Hanover, Ind., gave him the honorary degree of doctor of divinity.

In June 1947 he was made a Knight of the Order of Orange Nassau, the decoration being bestowed on him by Queen Wilhelmina at a ceremony conducted by Ambassador Loudon in the Netherlands Embassy.

In 1929 he was elected to the office of moderator of the Washington City Presbytery which is composed of 42 churches and in 1940 he was made the moderator of the Synod of Baltimore which is composed of the 153 Presbyterian Churches of Washington City, Baltimore, and New Castle.

Dr. Braskamp has for 15 years been the president of the Princeton Theological Seminary Alumni Association of Washington and is a member of the Washington Princeton University Club, and the University of Michigan.

In September 1925 he married Anna C. Bull, of Milford, Pa. They have two children, a daughter, Anne Bernice, age 22, who graduated from Wilson College, Chambersburg, Pa., with a bachelor of arts degree in June 1949, and entered the law department of George Washington University in September 1949. Bernard, Jr., age 18, graduated from Calvin Coolidge High School in June 1949 and is preparing to enter West Point Military Academy in 1950.

Dr. Braskamp was born of humble, God-fearing Dutch parents in Alton, Iowa, a small town of 1,000 inhabitants in the northwestern part of the State where the temperature one winter, during his boyhood days, registered 42° below zero although on the 18th day of February 1887, when he was born, it was only 15 below.

His father and mother were childhood friends and schoolmates in Holland, both having been born in Appeldorn, where the Queen has her summer home. His mother was 15 years of age when her parents and their nine children emigrated to America. His father, who was the same age, was a young tinsmith in Appeldorn and when he reached the age of 21 and had earned enough money at his trade to pay for his passage, he also went west to America, the "land of opportunity," where his boyhood sweetheart was living. A few years after his arrival they were married, the bride having been employed as a seamstress and the bridegroom having found work as a tinsmith and clerk in the small hardware store in Alton.

Dr. Braskamp speaks the Dutch language fluently and keeps his command of that language by reading his mother's Bible which she brought with her from Holland. He often calls to mind those pioneer days in the prairies of Iowa when life was a tremendous struggle and there were many hardships.

The house in which he was born was a small frame building with no heat in any room except in the kitchen where there was a cook stove in which corn cobs, purchased from farmers at 75 cents per wagonload, were the only fuel material. He and the other four children in the family slept on straw beds in rooms without heat. The mother, after kneeling with them in prayer, would tuck them in, the last in bed having the great thrill of blowing out the lamp which she carried.

Dr. Braskamp's parents made every possible sacrifice to give their five children a college education. After completing his grammar-school studies in Alton, he went to the Northwestern Classical Academy at Orange City, Iowa, which was 4 miles to the northwest. He usually walked this distance, leaving home at 6:45 in the morning, the starting time being determined by the weather. It was pretty tough going to face the cold northwest wind in the winter months. Like every normal boy he often wished that he could hear the news that the academy had burned to the ground and that there would not be any school.

On the evening of the academy commencement exercises the principal, in his introductory remarks, announced that the 16-year-old Braskamp boy in knee-length pants who was the next on the program to give an oration, had never during his 3 years been late for the 8 o'clock chapel services. Dr. Braskamp gives his mother all the credit for that record for she got up every morning at 5:30 to start the cook-stove fire and to melt enough water in the ice-covered basin so that he could wash his face and hands before sitting down to his breakfast which usually consisted of a large dish of oatmeal, toast, and a cup of hot chocolate. His mother would always put a few home-made cookies or doughnuts in his overcoat pocket which would tide him over until he returned from school at about 1:30 in the afternoon after walking the 4 miles.

After graduating from the academy he went to Grinnell College, Iowa, entering at the age of 16. In his freshman and sophomore years he was the short-stop on the varsity baseball team and the pitcher on his class team. There is one intercollege game whose memory haunts him. Grinnell was playing the University of Iowa and the game was a tie at the beginning of the ninth inning with Iowa University at bat. There was an Iowa runner on third base and two outs. The batter on the third pitch drove a sizzling grounder to the shortstop which he handled cleanly just as he had done with the seven other grounders but something happened and he threw the ball about 20 feet over the first baseman's head and into the grandstand. The game was over for Grinnell failed to score during the last half of the ninth inning. A heart-broken player went home in tears.

Dr. Braskamp completed his first 2 years at Grinnell College in a creditable manner but his parents were financially unable to assist him in continuing his studies. There was very little opportunity for a student to work his way through school at Grinnell. He consequently found it necessary to stay home and spent the year as a clerk in his father's hardware store. It was his job to open the store every morning at 7 o'clock, start the fire in the stove, sweep the floor, and dust the counter. After those chores he was ready to do a rushing business. The hardware business, however, was not a lucrative one, especially during the cold winter months. Frequently, when his father and he were getting ready to close the store at 9 o'clock in the evening, they would find, upon counting the money in the till, that they had sold less than $2 worth of merchandise.

Dr. Braskamp's parents, always ready to make every sacrifice for their children's education, sold their last small tract of farm land, which they had purchased for $8 an acre, in order that he might be privileged to pursue his education. He decided to go to the University of Michigan for those last 2 years. Realizing what tremendous sacrifices his parents were making, he immediately upon arriving at Ann Arbor, Mich., started out in search of work which would help pay expenses. He found work waiting on tables and cutting the lawn of one of the professors. In the wintertime he took care of the professor's furnace. He did not have time, however, for the practice and training that was required of a student who was trying out for the varsity baseball team and therefore gave up his boyhood dream of being a major-league player.

One week in the spring he made big money. He was given charge of the sale of the librettos for the May festival. He made $32 that week but his duties, as sales manager, deprived him of the inspiration and pleasure of hearing Schumann-Heink who was on the program that year. It was a question of business before pleasure.

In the summertime, during his vacations, he sold maps and the Century Book of Facts. He also made an extra few dollars at the Fourth of July celebration in his home town and the nearby towns for he was quite a sprinter, usually winning first or second place in the 100-yard dash. The men who bet on him would always give him at least 50 cents or a dollar whenever he was the first to hit the tape.

Having been a shortstop on a college baseball team he also frequently made a few dollars by playing for neighboring towns.

At the beginning of his senior year at the University of Michigan he decided to enter the law department after receiving his bachelor of arts degree but a few months before graduation he felt the urge to enter the ministry. Then in September he went to Hartford Theological Seminary, Hartford, Conn., where he was given a scholarship.

While a first-year student in the Hartford Seminary he had the great privilege of hearing an address by Woodrow Wilson, president of Princeton University. He was so inspired by that message that he decided to go to

Princeton for the remaining 2 years of seminary training where he could have an opportunity to hear Woodrow Wilson more frequently. It became his great ambition to obtain a master of arts degree from Princeton University. Consequently the following year he went from Hartford to Princeton. In addition to taking the regular studies in the theological seminary he went over to the university to enroll in the graduate department. At the end of the 2 years he not only graduated from the theological seminary but received the degree of master of arts in philosophy from Princeton University.

He was licensed and ordained to the ministry by the presbytery of Brooklyn, N. Y., in May 1911. In September 1911, he was invited to Washington to become the assistant pastor of the Church of the Covenant, now called the National Presbyterian Church, where Dr. Charles Wood was then the revered pastor.

TUESDAY, *July 24, 1956.*

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted that House Resolution 439 was adopted in the House of Representatives on July 2, 1956. It provides that the prayers offered by the Chaplain, the Reverend Bernard Braskamp, doctor of divinity, at the opening of the daily sessions of the House of Representatives of the United States from January 3, 1953, to the end of the 84th Congress be printed as a House document, and that 2,000 additional copies be printed and bound for the use of the House of Representatives to be distributed by the Chaplain of the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to add to the remarks which I made in this Chamber on February 1, 1950, shortly after Dr. Bernard Braskamp was unanimously elected by the Democrats and the Republicans as the Chaplain of the House of Representatives. Dr. Braskamp, since his retirement from the active pastorate in 1952, holds the distinction of being the first chaplain in the history of the United State Congress to make the chaplaincy a full-time ministry.

His so-called congressional parish numbers more than 3,000 for he seeks to make his ministry as chaplain available not only to the 435 Representatives and their families but also to the officers, secretaries, clerks, pages, and all the employees on the House side of the Capitol.

In the volume of prayers offered by Dr. Braskamp at the opening of the daily sessions of the House of Representatives from February 1, 1950, to the close of the 82d Congress, and printed as House Document No. 458, we find this introductory statement by Speaker Rayburn:

Dr. Braskamp has been Chaplain of the House of Representatives since 1950, following 40 years of service as pastor of churches in the Washington, D. C., area. His prayers before the House have been fervent and inspiring, giving impulse to the sacredness of duty in the public service. Their devotional value is almost as great in the cold page of print as in the House itself. Dr. Braskamp enjoys in notable degree the respect and

affection of the entire membership of the House, to whom he is a counsellor, friend, and brother. In publishing this volume of his prayers, we feel we are rendering a public service and commend them to good people everywhere.

Mr. Speaker, I am confident all of the Members of the House concur with you in this expression of your high esteem for our Chaplain.

Prayers

Offered by the Chaplain at the Opening of the Daily Sessions of the House of Representatives of the United States During the Eighty-third and Eighty-fourth Congresses (1953–1956)

EIGHTY-THIRD CONGRESS

First Session

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 1953

O Thou infinite and eternal God, in this first meeting of the Eighty-third Congress, we are humbly beseeching Thee that daily we may be guided and sustained by Thy divine spirit in our high vocation as the chosen representatives of our great Republic.

Grant that in all our deliberations and decisions we may bear clear and unmistakable testimony that we are seeking to do that which is well pleasing unto Thee and imperative and beneficent for the welfare of our beloved country and all mankind.

During this new year may it become increasingly evident to men and nations everywhere that the old world of self-interest and self-aggrandizement, of prejudice and hatred, of isolation and greed, is too small for the growing and magnanimous soul of democracy with its spirit of brotherhood and good will, of mutual understanding and service.

May it be the goal of all our aspirations and endeavors to cultivate and achieve a social order which incarnates and exemplifies those spiritual ideals and principles that were enunciated by our blessed Lord in His Sermon on the Mount.

Hear us as we bow in adoration and unite in offering unto Thee the prayer of the Prince of Peace, our Saviour:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever.

Amen.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 1953

ALMIGHTY GOD, in whose divine keeping and control are the coming in and the going out of all our days, by Thy grace we have entered upon a new year.

May we accept each day as a priceless gift and a glorious opportunity for heroic endeavor to do all the good we can, in all the ways we can, and to all the people we can.

Grant that we may not walk in the new year with face turned backward or with fear and foreboding, but with a resolute and daring faith, assured that the future will be as bright as the promises of God.

We pray that Thou wilt be present and favorable unto our beloved Speaker and all the Members of Congress as they seek the right solution to the many difficult problems which challenge the consecration of their noblest manhood and womanhood.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 1953

O THOU GOD OF GREATNESS AND GOODNESS, in this moment of prayer wilt Thou give us a clearer vision of those nobler heights of joy and splendor to which our lives may ascend.

Help us to hasten dawning of a new day when the spirit of our blessed Lord shall prevail everywhere, and grant that we may always have an eye single to Thy glory.

May it be the supreme ambition of our lives to do those things that are well pleasing unto Thee, and may the time come when the spirit of brotherhood and good will shall be regnant in the lives of men and of nations.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 1953

O THOU WHO HAST CALLED US to be partners with Thee in building the Kingdom of God, wilt Thou inspire us with new vistas of outlook and new ventures of faith?

May we daily see the transforming energy of Thy divine spirit remaking our world and lifting all mankind to higher levels of blessedness.

Grant that nothing may ever daunt or discourage us as we strive for peace on earth and good will among men.

To Thy name we ascribe all the glory. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 1953

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, as we go forth into the hours of this new day, may we be deeply concerned about accomplishing something that will add to the happiness and security and richness of human life.

In all our plans and policies may we be conservative without being reactionary, liberal without being radical and conciliatory without ever compromising or breaking faith with the principles of righteousness and justice.

May we continue to pray and labor in eager and earnest expectation and with the confidence that the lofty hopes and aspirations which we cherish for our troubled and confused world are going to be brought to fulfillment and fruition.

In Christ's name we offer our petition. Amen.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 1953

O THOU INFINITE AND ETERNAL GOD, we acknowledge, gratefully, that Thou hast been our refuge and strength in ages past and art our only help and hope for today and tomorrow; and we now beseech Thee humbly and penitently that Thou wilt kindle within us a sacred flame of noble idealism and make our minds and hearts the sanctuary of Thy love and light, Thy truth and peace. And grant that on this solemn and sacred day in the calendar of our national life all the citizens of our beloved country may lift their voices in joyous harmony to invoke the blessings of Thy grace and favor upon Thy servants, our chosen representatives, who are to take the oath of office and the pledge of loyalty and service.

We pray that our President, our Vice President, our Speaker, and all who are leaders in the affairs of government may be good men and women ruling in the fear of the Lord. May they be faithful in the performance of their duties; give them that favor and influence with their fellow men which come from following Thee. Inspire us, O God, with a greater desire to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with the Lord as we strive to bring in that glorious and blessed day of brotherhood and of peace; and hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 1953

MOST GRACIOUS GOD, in this moment of prayer may we enter more vividly and vitally into the fellowship of Thy divine strength and peace.

Expand and enlarge our minds and hearts with loftier conceptions of Thy wise and beneficent purposes for all mankind.

May we be sensitive to the needs of suffering and struggling humanity and eager to serve our generation in the spirit of our blessed Lord.

Grant that the misunderstanding and strife which prevail among the nations of the earth may soon come to an end.

To Thy name we ascribe the glory and the praise. Amen.

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MONDAY, JANUARY 26, 1953

ALMIGHTY GOD, in this brief moment of communion with Thy spirit, may we gain some greater fitness for the duties and responsibilities which we know are far beyond all human wisdom.

We acknowledge penitently that at times we are tempted to yield to those enervating and devastating moods which seek to persuade us that our vision of a better world is merely an illusion.

God forbid that we should allow our faith to become extinguished or eclipsed in these days of moral darkness when many nations are still speaking the language of hatred and hostility rather than the language of friendship and love.

Grant that we may go forward with courage, placing our confidence in the glorious triumph of those noble principles which our blessed Lord proclaimed in the long ago but which mankind seems unwilling to try.

Hear us in His name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 1953

GOD OF GRACE AND WISDOM unto whom all hearts are open and all desires known wilt Thou inspire us daily with those longings and hopes which Thou dost delight to satisfy.

Help us to believe that no needed blessing wilt Thou withhold from us if we walk uprightly and that Thou canst bring to fulfillment every noble aspiration which stirs our soul.

Grant that we may meet and master all our difficult national and international problems with an assurance of Thy guiding and sustaining presence.

May every thought of our mind be brought into a glad and willing obedience to the mind of our blessed Lord and may His spirit of love touch the life of broken and bleeding humanity with its healing and transforming power.

In His name we offer our petition. Amen.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1953

O THOU SUPREME SOURCE OF LIFE AND LIGHT, OF WISDOM AND TRUTH, wilt Thou inspire us during this day with a reassuring sense of Thy companionship and the conquering power of Thy divine spirit.

Grant that the moral and spiritual forces may be greatly strengthened as we seek to establish the kingdom of universal peace and brotherhood.

May our President, our Speaker, and all who hold positions of leadership and authority in our Republic be animated by sincere and lofty ambitions.

Help us to walk circumspectly and with dignity and humility as we meet the duties and responsibilities of our high vocation.

To Thy name we ascribe the praise. Amen.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1953

GOD OF MAJESTY AND MERCY, as we address ourselves daily to the difficult task of building a greater nation and a better world, may we be supremely concerned about observing those moral and spiritual standards and principles which Thou hast ordained.

Grant that we may do all within our power to safeguard and perpetuate the good name of our beloved country and to extend its influence as a vital force in bringing peace and prosperity to needed humanity.

Show us how we may encourage the hearts and strengthen the hands of our leaders and chosen representatives who are striving to achieve for mankind a nobler and happier way of life.

We pray that integrity of character, reverence for human personality, devotion to duty, and the fear of the Lord, may be the virtues whereby we are known among our fellow men and the nations of the earth.

Hear us in the name of the Christ who came that we might have life and have it more abundantly. Amen.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1953

O THOU INFINITE AND ETERNAL GOD, who hast created us with a capacity for the virtues of love and sympathy and kindness, we thank Thee for this new week called Brotherhood Week.

We penitently confess that we so frequently allow pride and prejudice, selfishness and self-interest to supplant and usurp the spirit of friendship and brotherliness which Thou hast ordained as the natural and normal feeling in the realm of human relationships.

Grant that during this week we may be inspired to cultivate a more congenial and magnanimous attitude toward all mankind.

May it be our deepest personal concern and our supreme national interest to release the radiant splendor which is hidden in the soul of humanity and to give ourselves sincerely and wholeheartedly to the glorious task of saving human hearts from despair and human lives from misery and degradation.

Hear us in the name of our blessed Lord who went about doing good. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1953

ALMIGHTY AND EVER-BLESSED GOD, may this Lenten season upon which we are entering today be great and glorious in the realization of a finer degree of spiritual culture.

We penitently confess that again and again our spiritual nature becomes eclipsed by sordid materialism and we lose our vision of the wonder and glory of the life to which Thou hast called us.

Grant that in these days of self-examination, self-discipline, and self-denial we may discover those sources of divine power which will enable us to gain the mastery over every insurgent impulse and every unworthy and inordinate desire.

May we daily become more sensitive and responsive to the guidance of Thy spirit, leading us into an intimate communion with Thyself and nearer to all mankind in the bonds of peace and brotherhood.

Hear us in the name of our Saviour. Amen.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1953

ETERNAL GOD, OUR FATHER, we thank Thee for this day in the calendar of our national history, commemorating the birth of George Washington, who stood like a giant among his contemporaries, undisturbed by difficulties and unafraid of dangers.

Gratefully and reverently we call to mind the illustrious character of this noble American patriot who focused and compacted in his life those qualities of moral and spiritual manhood which are so greatly needed by our generation.

Burdened with heavy responsibilities and facing the arduous task of championing a righteous cause, he girded himself with an indomitable faith which enabled him to meet fearlessly and valiantly the forces of tyranny and oppression.

Grant that the memory of his courageous and sacrificial spirit may inspire all the citizens of our beloved country to respond with equal fidelity to the glorious adventure of bringing freedom and peace to our troubled world.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 1953

GOD OF INFINITE AND INFALLIBLE WISDOM, may this moment of prayer be for us a time of clear and unclouded vision and may all our blind spots be removed.

We are deeply conscious that our perception of that which is truly vital and fundamental is frequently so very hazy and muddy.

Grant that in the great adventure of building a well-balanced and useful life we may know how to coordinate practical commonsense with lofty idealism, self-discipline with personal freedom, humor with seriousness, joyfulness with genuine piety, and love with duty and service.

Hear our prayers for our beloved country and answer our petitions in the name of the Christ, whose divine spirit alone can illumine and rightly guide our minds and hearts. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1953

ALMIGHTY GOD, SOURCE OF ALL OUR BLESSINGS, we are pausing at this noon hour to unite our minds and hearts in the sacrament of adoration and praise.

May we give ourselves in renewed surrender and devotion to Thy holy will for this is the only return we can make for the many manifestations of Thy bountiful providence.

Show us how we may develop and safeguard our country's material interests, but, above all, how to protect and promote its moral and spiritual values.

Help us to see that history proves very conclusively that whole civilizations go down in confusion and chaos unless these values become regnant and potent in the life of humanity.

Hear us in the name of our blessed Lord who is always seeking our eternal good. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 2, 1953

ALMIGHTY GOD, we rejoice that Thou art always willing and able to supply each new day with its needed blessings.

We pray that we may be numbered among those whose minds and hearts are rich in the supply of Thy divine spirit of truth and righteousness, of mercy and forgiveness.

Grant that in these days of world tragedy and tribulation we may have the grace to pray even for our enemies who, in their blindness, their hatred, and brutality are filling human life with so much suffering and sorrow.

Inspire us with the dynamic and victorious virtues of goodness and love. Show us how we may lift mankind into that higher spiritual unity where all antipathies and antagonisms are transcended by the spirit of brotherhood and good will.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 1953

GOD OF ALL GRACE AND GOODNESS, may this new day be filled with lofty aspiration for personal and national righteousness.

Grant that we may do our very best to help our confused and troubled world find the way of peace.

May our plans and desires, our deliberations and decisions, always be in harmony and identical with Thy wise and beneficient purposes for all mankind.

Inspire and encourage us with the joyous certainty that our trust in Thee and in the triumph of the kingdom of truth and brotherhood can never be put to shame.

Hear us in the name of our blessed Lord. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 9, 1953

ALMIGHTY AND EVER-BLESSED GOD, who art always placing at our disposal the inexhaustible resources of Thy grace, may we daily appropriate our blessings with a greater sense of our absolute dependence upon Thee.

Grant that in all our plans and programs for the welfare of our beloved country and the world we may understand more clearly that we can never solve the many problems of humanity on a purely economic basis, for man does not live by bread alone.

We know very well that mankind needs food and clothing, but we penitently confess that we so frequently fail to heed the exhortation of our blessed Lord to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.

May this be a day when we shall set ourselves anew to the glorious task of bringing to fulfillment the eternal truths of the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man.

Hear us in the name of the Christ, who is the way, the truth, and the life. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 1953

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, inspire us now with a more eager response to the call and command of Thy divine voice, lest we walk in darkness and despair.

Grant that we may always be conscious of Thy presence girding us with wisdom and power to meet worthily and courageously all of life's stern duties and demands.

May we never be guilty of any selfish ambition to seek merely our own personal welfare but may we labor for the promotion and preservation of the common good.

We thank Thee for the noble life and character of Thy servant who now dwells with Thee in eternal blessedness. May the members of his bereaved family be comforted and sustained by the consolations of grace.

Hear us in the name of our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 1953

ALMIGHTY GOD, wilt Thou kindle within our souls Thy divine light and may its luster and radiancy never grow dim or be eclipsed and extinguished as we daily continue our earthly pilgrimage.

We humbly confess that there is so much in life that appears dark unto us and that we do not understand. Again and again our finite minds are sorely perplexed with questions we cannot answer and with problems which human ingenuity and wisdom cannot solve.

Grant that we may never lose heart or hope but go right onward in one undeviating course, following the leading of Thy spirit and that light that shall never fail.

Show us how we may conquer our fears and doubts. Help us to cleave with increasing tenacity to Thy love which will never let us go. May we place our trembling hands in Thine and heed Thy voice as Thou dost say, "This is the way, walk ye therein."

Hear us in the name of our blessed Lord in whom we find that perfect love which casts out all fear. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 16, 1953

O Thou who art unchanging in Thy love and goodness, we are again turning unto Thee for guidance and strength, for courage and hope.

We thank Thee that Thou art always willing to satisfy our nameless longings and to give us of Thy companionship and counsel as we walk the ways of life, which at times seem so very dark and devious.

May Thy spirit of peace and power descend upon our troubled minds and hearts, lifting us out of those fears which paralyze our energies into a faith which inspires us with confidence and joy.

Wilt Thou illumine our souls with a glorious vision of the fulfillment of Thy gracious promises when all our doubts shall be dispelled and righteousness and truth shall be victorious.

To Thy name we ascribe the praise. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 1953

O Thou infinite and gracious Spirit, who hast made us for Thyself, may we now be numbered among the seekers and finders of God for we need Thee so greatly in our private and public life.

Grant that we may yield ourselves gladly and unreservedly to the guidance and discipline of Thy divine truth in order that our minds and hearts may be emancipated from all those fears which weaken, those doubts which darken, those sins which blind and deaden our souls, and those sorrows which make us lonely.

We are daily beseeching Thee that Thou wilt create within the hearts of men and nations those finer feelings and nobler thoughts which are the progenitors of achievement in the building of a more glorious civilization.

Inspire us with the same lofty aspiration which filled the life of St. Patrick, Thy servant, whose Christlike character and ministry, many in this and other lands are honoring today.

Hear us in the name of our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 1953

ALMIGHTY GOD, as we continue to address ourselves to the tasks and responsibilities of this new day, may we have a clearer and loftier conception of the fundamental moral and spiritual principles and their bearing upon the problems which we are seeking to solve.

Help us to cultivate a more receptive attitude to those truths and principles and may we never espouse and proclaim them with any cowardly "if's" and "peradventures," but courageously and with a positive and everlasting "Yea" and "Amen."

Give us the calm assurance that all the conflicting and warring elements in the social order and the whole universe are under the divine control of an omnipotent and omniscient Ruler who has not abdicated His throne and whose plans and purposes can never be defeated.

May we be serenely confident that light will triumph over darkness, and that out of the strife and confusion of our troublous times there is destined to come the golden age with its reign of peace and righteousness.

Lord, we believe; help Thou our unbelief. Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 1953

O THOU WHO ART MAN'S INFALLIBLE COUNSELOR AND FAITHFUL FRIEND, may the memory of Thy sustaining presence in all our yesterdays inspire us to meet the adventure of each new day with faith and fortitude.

Show us how we may keep our moral balance and our loyalty to the spiritual ideals in these days when we are severely tempted to become infatuated with materialistic habits of life.

Grant that as individuals and as a nation we may be eager to do Thy will for in the doing of Thy will is our peace.

Hear us in the name of the great Captain of our salvation. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 23, 1953

GOD OF GRACE AND WISDOM, we thank Thee for the gift of this new day with its many opportunities for the culture of our souls and for helpfulness to our fellow men.

Show us how we may enhance the quality of our character and our service for all mankind. May it never be our primary concern to add days to our life but may we strive sincerely to add life to our days.

Grant that in our individual and national life we may be more fully aware of the vulnerable side of our nature. God forbid that we should ever presume that we can breast the storms and headwinds of temptation and evil with our own puny strength.

Hear us in the name of our blessed Lord. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 1953

ALMIGHTY GOD, whose blessed Son identified for us the true way of life and always walked in it, inspire us daily with the urge, the faith, and the courage to follow and walk in that same way.

Grant that we may be ready to challenge, with the inexhaustible and invincible resources of Thy divine wisdom and strength, every difficult human problem which we may encounter.

May we be numbered among those courageous souls who fear man and circumstances and hard experiences so little because they fear God so much.

Show us how we may hasten the coming of that glorious day when every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that the Christ is the Lord to the glory of God. Give us the assurance that nothing can ever separate us from Thy love.

Hear us in His name. Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 1953

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, grant that we may go forth in the hours of this day with a more adventurous and steadfast faith in Thee and in the ultimate triumph of the true and the good.

We humbly confess that we so frequently allow our faith to become eclipsed by doubt and by difficulties which seem insurmountable.

Help us to understand that if our faith is to be vital and strong, then we must cultivate it and guard it, for eternal vigilance is the price of faith as truly as it is the price of freedom.

Hear us for the sake of our blessed Lord. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 1953

GOD OF ALL MAJESTY AND MERCY by Thy grace we have entered upon Holy Week, commemorating days in the life of our Lord whose solemn and sacred significance our finite minds cannot comprehend.

Wilt Thou give us the interpreting light of Thy divine spirit as we seek to contemplate the meaning of His sufferings and death and resurrection.

We rejoice that when there was no eye to pity, no heart to comfort, and no arm to save, then in the fullness of time Thou didst send thine only begotten Son to be our Saviour.

Help us to understand more clearly that the kingdom of truth and righteousness for which we are hoping and praying and laboring can only be established through the power of sacrificial love.

Hear us in His name. Amen.

THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 1953

ALMIGHTY GOD, inspire us during these days with the humble spirit and the contrite heart when we call to mind the redemptive ministry of our blessed Lord who gave His life upon the cross—a willing and acceptable sacrifice for the sins of the world.

Grant that this Holy Week may be for all of us not only a time of commemoration but of renewed consecration and desire to have a larger part in lifting and leading mankind out of darkness and bondage into the glorious light and liberty of the Son of God.

Give us the calm and courageous assurance that those nobler instincts and capacities with which we have been created will some day be victorious and may the kingdoms of this earth become the kingdom of the Prince of Peace.

To Thy name we ascribe all the praise. Amen.

MONDAY, APRIL 13, 1953

ALMIGHTY GOD, in whose loving care and sure control are the coming in and the going out of all our days, may we now be sensitive and responsive to the presence, the promptings, and the persuasions of Thy Holy Spirit as we bow together in the fellowship of prayer.

Grant that Thy servants may be blessed with the assurance and joy of divine guidance and grace as they again assemble in this Chamber to legislate for the highest welfare of our beloved country and all mankind.

We penitently confess that our finite minds are so frequently perplexed and confounded by the frustrations and tensions of life, its mysteries and dilemmas, its tragedies and tribulations, its dangers and difficulties.

May we accept the challenge of every national and international problem with the unwavering confidence and courage that Thou art willing and able to place at our disposal all the strength and wisdom we need to save our civilization from destruction and despair.

Hear us in the name of the Captain of our salvation. Amen.

MONDAY, APRIL 20, 1953

ETERNAL GOD, whose divine will is sovereign and supreme, may we daily aspire to bring our thoughts and desires into harmony with Thy wise and beneficent purposes.

We humbly confess that again and again we become confused and confounded as we encounter the hard questions and problems of life for which we have no satisfactory answer and solution.

Fortify us against those devastating fears and moods of despair and defeatism which seek to storm the citadel of our souls.

We pray that Thou wilt awaken within our dull and disobedient minds and hearts a more vivid sense of Thy guiding wisdom and sustaining power.

Make us diligent and faithful in our endeavors to build a social order in which there will be justice and security and peace for all the members of the human family.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 1953

O THOU GOD OF ALL GRACE AND GOODNESS, of all consolation and compassion, of all wisdom and truth, in these moments of prayer may we become more fully conscious of Thy presence which is ever round about us.

Grant that as we face tasks which test our courage and demand the consecration of our noblest manhood and womanhood we may not presume that we can conquer and carry on in our own strength.

Give us the insight to understand that the blessings of happiness and peace of mind, which we long for, are the byproducts of righteous living and the eternal possession of those who do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with the Lord and put their trust in Thee.

Help us to look out upon all the hours of the new day with a clearer vision of Thy divine love which will never fail and Thy divine light which will never fade.

In Christ's name we bring our petitions. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 1953

ALMIGHTY AND EVER-GRACIOUS GOD, we are again directing our thoughts toward Thee in the sacred attitude of prayer, constrained and compelled by deep longings and instincts which Thou alone canst satisfy.

Show us how we may intensify and cultivate our desires for a more intimate communion with Thy divine spirit and may our minds be illumined with wisdom and our hearts be warmed with love.

Grant that the closing hours of each day may be hallowed with the blessed memory that we have revered Thy laws and have kept our characters inviolate.

May no evening hour be filled with vain regrets but may we have within our souls the joyous testimony that we have performed our duties faithfully and have shared in the glorious task of making the struggle of life less difficult for needy humanity.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 1953

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, Thou art always near and giving Thyself unto us, our companion to walk with us when we are lonely, our counselor to guide when we are confused, and our refuge and strength when we encounter trials and tribulations.

Grant that having received so much from Thee we may be more eager to give ourselves unto others, bearing the burdens of the weak, sharing our blessings with the needy, and manifesting the Christlike spirit of compassion, considerateness, kindness, and helpfulness.

Inspire us with a lofty vision of a happier and more abundant life for all mankind. Give us a greater reverence and respect for human personality. May we be humble and mindful that the greatest and the strongest have their weaknesses, their flaws, and failures, and that the weakest and most undistinguishable have their virtues and graces and a capacity for nobility of character and service.

Hear us in the name of the Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

MONDAY, APRIL 27, 1953

ALMIGHTY GOD, as we continue to go forth into the hours of this new day, may we have the spiritual insight to discern clearly and interpret rightly Thy holy will.

Give us hearts to love Thee and our fellow men sincerely; minds to seek the truth devotedly and moral courage to perform our duties faithfully and fearlessly.

Make us receptive to the overtures of Thy grace and guard us against those anxieties and fears which deplete our strength and disturb our peace.

May the day soon dawn when the Prince of Peace shall reign supremely and men and nations shall walk together the highways of good will and brotherhood.

In His name we seek Thy blessing. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 5, 1953

GOD OF MAJESTY AND MERCY, may we daily become more conscious and appreciative of life's highest and most enduring satisfaction and values and more eager to mediate them to all mankind.

Inspire our hearts with gladness and gratitude and illumine our minds with wisdom and understanding as we endeavor to make these blessings the glorious possession of men and nations everywhere.

We penitently confess that our hearts are often cold and callous and we have very little sense of social responsibility and sincere interest in the welfare and happiness of others.

Show us how, in these days of worldwide distress and chaos, we may enable one another to face life and its hard experiences not with fear but with faith; not with a feeling of terror but with a consciousness of triumph.

Hear us in the name of the Captain of our salvation. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 1953

ALMIGHTY AND ETERNAL GOD, we rejoice that daily Thou art seeking to strengthen and sustain us with a reassuring sense of Thy presence, Thy peace, and Thy power.

May every thought of our mind now be brought into a glad and willing obedience to the spirit of our blessed Lord.

Hear us in His name. Amen.

Memorial Services

INVOCATION BY THE CHAPLAIN

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, who art the light of all that is true, the strength of all that is good, and the glory of all that is beautiful, we are again approaching Thy throne of grace through the old and familiar way of prayer which is always open to those who come with a humble spirit and a contrite heart.

Grant that in this hour of solemn and sacred memory we may enter into a blessed and intimate communion with Thy divine spirit and with the spirit of our beloved upon whom Thou hast bestowed Thy glorious benediction and the diadem of Thy praise, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

In Christ's name we bring our petitions. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING AND PRAYER

The Old Testament Scripture readings are selections from the 90th and the 103d Psalms:

Lord, Thou has been our dwelling place in all generations.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever Thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God.

So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear Him.

For He knoweth our frame: He remembereth that we are dust.

As for man, his days are as grass; as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth.

For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more.

But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear Him, and His righteousness unto children's children.

To such as keep His covenant, and to those that remember His commandments to do them.

The New Testament readings are taken from the 14th chapter of the Gospel according to St. John:

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

May God add His blessing to these readings from His Holy Word.

The following poem entitled "The Other Room," written by Robert Freeman is a beautiful commentary on the gracious words which came from the lips of our blessed Lord:

"No, not cold beneath the grasses,
Not close-walled within the tomb;
Rather, in my Father's mansion,
Living in another room.

"Living, like the one who loves me,
Like yon child with cheeks abloom,
Out of sight, at desk or schoolbook,
Busy in another room.

"Nearer than the youth whom fortune
Beckons where the strange lands loom;
Just behind the hanging curtain,
Serving in another room.

"Shall I doubt my Father's mercy?
Shall I think of death as doom,
Or the stepping o'er the threshold
To a bigger, brighter room?

"Shall I blame my Father's wisdom?
Shall I sit enswathed in gloom,
When I know my beloved are happy,
Waiting in the other room?"

Let us have a moment of silent prayer.

O Thou infinite and eternal God, in whose divine keeping and control are the coming in and the going out of all our days and years, in the life of each of us there are times and experiences when our feelings seem to impose silence.

Humbly and reverently we are calling upon Thy great and holy name, encouraged and constrained by every gracious invitation and promise in Thy word through which Thou hast spoken unto us.

Thou alone art the author and disposer of human life and from Thee our spirits have come and unto Thee they return. We beseech Thee that unto all Thy righteous dealings we may yield ourselves with due resignation and patience for Thou art too wise to err and too kind to injure.

We pray that this may not be for us an hour of sadness and gloom but of thanksgiving and rejoicing as we call to mind the life and character of Thy servants unto whom Thou hast opened the gates to the larger life and received into Thy nearer presence.

We thank Thee for the high and holy privilege which we have enjoyed of walking and working with them for a little while upon this earth. We have not said farewell unto them but only goodnight, assured that on some bright and blessed morn we shall meet again and dwell together in hallowed union in that fairer land whose language is music and where there is fullness of joy and peace.

Grant unto the members of their families the consolation of Thy grace and some special token of Thy covenant love.

Show us, as we continue our earthly pilgrimage, how we may carry on in faith and in the fear of the Lord and at the eventide of life, when Thou dost call us to Thyself, may we be worthy of receiving the blessings which Thou hast prepared for the faithful.

Hear us in the name of our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift upon you the light of His countenance and give you peace.

Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 1953

ALMIGHTY GOD, we are again turning our thoughts toward Thee in supplication and petition, for Thou alone canst give wisdom to guide, strength to sustain, and hope to cheer us in these troublous days.

Grant that we may yield ourselves more completely to the sovereign will of Thy divine spirit in order that our own finite spirits may be taught by Thee and touched to finer issues.

We pray that, in our desires to find and fulfill the meaning and mission of life and have a worthy place in the annals of history, we may be ambitious without being unscrupulous, highminded without being supercilious, venturesome without being foolhardy and presumptuous.

Show us how we may help all mankind achieve a larger resource of happiness and relief from life's burdens and struggles and worries.

Inspire us to hasten the fulfillment of the day when peace and good will shall prevail among men and nations.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 11, 1953

O THOU WHO ART OUR FATHER AND MOTHER—God, we thank Thee for yesterday, that blessed day of lofty and worthy sentiment in the calendar of the church and state called "Mother's Day."

We rejoice that we again had the high and holy privilege of rendering tribute and honor to our mothers whose relationship to us is unlike that of any tie which binds us to our fellow men.

May our hearts continue to go out to Thee in gratitude for the vast host of noble and God-fearing mothers who are safeguarding the home against those evil forces which threaten its stability, its security, and its sanctity.

Grant that our annual observance of Mother's Day may inspire us with a prayerful longing to make every heart and home in our beloved country a sacred shrine and sanctuary of faith, peace, and love.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 1953

ALMIGHTY GOD, in this brief moment of prayer and meditation, may we be refreshed and renewed in spirit and inspired to dedicate and devote ourselves more resolutely and wholeheartedly to the doing of Thy will.

Grant that, in these tense days, when nerves are taut and we are in danger of cracking up under the pressure of life, we may learn the secret of patience, poise, peace, and power in hearing and heeding Thy voice when Thou dost say, "Be still and know that I am God."

God forbid that we should ever yield to the devastating feeling that life is futile and not worthwhile but before we are at our own wits' end may we have the grace and the wisdom to follow and try the way of our blessed Lord.

Hear us in His name. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 14, 1953

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, we thank Thee for the priceless gift of a new day which we are called to make the most of and the best of.

May it not be just another routine day added to our years, but may we appraise it as a golden opportunity to contribute new meaning and worth to our own life and life of all mankind.

Grant that it may be a day filled with the best things; a day of faith and adventure, of vision and victory, of friendship and fraternity, of hope and helpfulness; a day when we shall move to higher levels of thought and action.

We pray that the legislation proposed and enacted here today may help lift the burdens which weigh so heavily on the backs and hearts of those whose lives are hard and full of hazards.

May our President, our Speaker, and all our chosen Representatives be blessed with insight and inspiration, with skill and sympathy, with wisdom and understanding as they seek peace on earth and good will among men.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 18, 1953

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast entrusted us with the high vocation of leadership in the business of statecraft, Thou alone art the source of the wisdom and strength which we need so urgently and supremely.

Give us the tranquillity of an unconquerable hope and the quietness of a patience that knows how to endure and never loses faith in the ultimate triumph of righteousness and justice.

Show us how we may bring courage and cheer to all who are staggering under the heavy burdens of fear and foreboding.

We thank Thee for the character and life of our colleague whose spirit has entered into the eternal blessedness of Thy nearer presence. Grant unto the members of his family the assurance that Thy grace is sufficient for all their needs.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 1953

O THOU WHO HAST MADE US FOR THYSELF and for one another, unquiet and restless are our minds and hearts until we are right with Thee and all mankind.

Grant that the spirit of our relationship to Thee may always be one of reverence and fear, of faith and humility, of trust and obedience, of loyalty and devotion and love.

We pray that in all of life's human relationships we may help to cultivate an attitude of sympathy and respect, of appreciation and understanding, of fraternity and good will.

May the words of our mouth, the meditations of our heart, and the work of our hands be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, our strength and our redeemer. Amen.

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THURSDAY, MAY 21, 1953

ALMIGHTY GOD, we rejoice that in the revelation of Thy divine sovereignty and beneficent purposes we may find the genesis and fulfillment of our noblest impulses, our deepest longings, and our loftiest aspirations.

We pray that daily our minds and hearts may strike the notes of a larger faith and a more resolute courage as we encounter problems for which our own finite wisdom has no satisfactory solution.

Grant that we may have a clearer vision of the victorious power of Thy love and the triumph of righteousness and may we never allow our faith to become eclipsed by fear and our doubts to harden into despair.

Kindle within our souls a greater reverence for human personality and a sincere desire to help all mankind find in life a richer meaning and a fuller joy.

In the name of our blessed Lord we bring our prayers of praise and supplication. Amen.

FRIDAY, MAY 22, 1953

GOD OF ALL MAJESTY AND MERCY, by Thy grace we have awakened to the light of a new day, conscious of our high calling and responsibilities as colleagues and coworkers with one another in building a nobler civilization.

May we never become discouraged and disheartened by the magnitude of this task or allow our sense of its difficulties to exceed our sense of Thy divine power.

We pray that the spiritual ideals and principles may be given the place of paramount importance and become dynamic in the social order which we are seeking to establish.

May the minds and hearts of men be cleansed of all those attitudes and ambitions which cause discord and dissension and division among the nations of the earth.

Show us how we may help mankind cast out the selfish and supercilious spirit which engenders hatred and strife and may it be supplanted by the magnanimous spirit of love which makes for tolerance and sympathy, for fellowship and cooperation, for peace and good will.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 25, 1953

GOD OF ALL WISDOM AND POWER, we are again uniting our hearts in the fellowship of prayer for we know that for courage and good cheer, for faith and fidelity, for patience and endurance, in these days of strain and stress, we need the hope and help which Thou alone canst give.

We rejoice that Thou hast placed at our command and disposal those abundant moral and spiritual resources, which will enable us to turn defeat into victory, doubt into confidence, if we are only willing to appropriate them.

Lift us out of all cynical and despairing tempers of mind and may we never stand still, trembling and looking toward the future with fear, but may we walk in faith, assured that Thy sustaining grace is sufficient for our every need.

Inspire us with a passion to hasten the dawning of that better day when both friend and foe, and all the members of the human family, of whatever race, or creed, or color, shall be drawn together by the spirit of our blessed Lord, the spirit of love and friendship, of peace and good will.

Hear us in His name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 1953

ALMIGHTY GOD, as we daily invoke Thy blessing and endeavor to find the right solution to our many difficult problems, may we have a greater faith in the primacy and potency of those moral and spiritual values which Thou hast ordained.

Grant that in seeking to minister to a turbulent and troubled world, in which many of the old securities are being severely shaken, may our own minds and hearts be tempered with that calm and steadfast spirit which has found its refuge and strength in Thee.

Show us how we may make the ideals and principles of democracy a more vital force in our own land and in all the places of the earth where men and nations are struggling for freedom and peace.

We pray that we may be inspired with a longing to give the blessings of democracy that larger geographical and numerical expansion which is inherent in the very truth which it proclaims.

To Thy name, through Christ Jesus our Lord, we ascribe all the praise. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 1, 1953

O THOU WHO HAST CALLED US to serve our generation in these days of crisis and darkness grant that we may be men and women of spiritual vision, of strong moral character, and of clear-seeing practical wisdom.

We pray that we may eagerly embrace every opportunity we have of assisting mankind find in life its majestic meanings, its lofty purposes, and its enduring satisfactions.

Show us how we may minister more helpfully to all the people of the earth as they look wistfully for a light to illumine the skyline of their hopes and aspirations.

May we be guided by Thy divine spirit in achieving the cooperation of men and nations everywhere in the great task of building a better world.

Grant that no divergency of material interests may break that unity of spirit that we so sorely need as we strive for those blessings of peace and prosperity which none can ever find and enjoy alone.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 1953

ALMIGHTY GOD, WHO ART THE INSPIRATION of every noble thought and every heroic achievement, we are beseeching Thee in our noonday prayer to evoke in our minds and hearts a sincere longing to follow the ways which Thou hast marked out for us.

Thou knowest how vain and futile are all our plans and purposes and how misdirected are all our energies unless we have a vivid sense of Thy guiding and sustaining presence and power and heed Thy voice as Thou dost say, "This is the way, walk ye therein."

Grant that we may come to the close of each day with the assurance of Thy benediction, "Well done thou good and faithful servant."

Hear us in the name of our blessed Lord who is the way, the truth, and the life. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 1953

O THOU WHO ART OUR CREATOR AND BENEFACTOR, may our lives during this new day be filled with the very best things.

Help us to realize that there is no time in it for anything except the doing of good and a sincere effort to be good.

We pray that in the realm of human relationships, now so tense and troubled, mankind may learn the wisdom of putting into practice the Golden Rule.

May we listen in on the life of one another with attitudes of sympathy and considerateness, of kindness and good will.

Show us how we may bring cheer and encouragement to all whose workaday world is dull and drab. May we enable them to find the secret of joyous living and the fulfillment of their fondest hopes.

Hear us in the name of our Master who went about doing good. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 1953

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, we thank Thee for the privilege and power of prayer in these strange and disturbing days when we are encountering gigantic tasks which baffle our understanding.

We humbly confess that we cannot find the right answer to our many perplexing problems without the interpreting light and guidance of Thy divine spirit.

We rejoice that thou art willing and able to gird us with strength to overcome all our fears and frustrations and to make our hearts the sanctuaries of Thy peace.

Give us wisdom and courage as we strive to emancipate our divided and distracted civilization from everything that darkens its faith and obscures its hope.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 1953

ALMIGHTY GOD, to whom we must look for light and leading, may all the hours of this day be filled with new hopes and expectations, new desires and determinations to build a better world.

Grant that in the structure of a nobler civilization we may be intent upon applying moral and spiritual principles to all our economic, social, and political affairs and may the selfish rivalry among the nations be supplanted by the spirit of fellowship.

May we have a faith that is strong and great enough to sustain us as we meet the challenge of this stupendous undertaking of attempting to establish a more brotherly world order.

We pray that we may never become discouraged and yield to despair, but inspire us with the assurance that the triumph of righteousness is inevitable for Thou art our divine ally working within us and with us to achieve blessedness for ourselves and all mankind.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 8, 1953

ALMIGHTY GOD, who art the supreme and final source of all wisdom and strength, grant that we may never presume that we can enter upon the tasks of any new day with confidence and courage unless we first look up unto Thee, with faith, for guidance.

We humbly confess that we have failed to learn the lessons which history and experience teach us so clearly that man's disorder and confusion are the inescapable sequel and consequences of his stubborn refusal to recognize Thy divine purposes and to follow Thy leading.

Inspire us to be more docile and may we regard the duties and responsibilities of our high vocation as glorious opportunities to work with Thee and with one another in the great adventure of contributing to the peace and blessedness of men and nations everywhere.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 1953

O THOU WHO ART THE SUPREME RULER OF THE UNIVERSE, whose laws and commandments are benign and beneficent, grant that we may see more clearly that in observing and obeying them we may find our truest joy and greatest peace.

May our minds and hearts be stirred and quickened with a new sense of Thy divine sovereignty, not as an arbitrary power, but as the wisdom and kindness of our Heavenly Father, whose thoughts concerning us are always those of love and mercy.

We pray, in all humility and sincerity, that we may be inspired by the ministry of Thy life-giving and life-directing Spirit as we seek to apprehend and apply those great moral and spiritual truths and principles which will strengthen the bonds of brotherhood and fellowship among the nations of the earth.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 1953

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, from whom cometh every good and perfect gift, grant that daily we may be more willing to acknowledge how dependent we are upon Thee for all our blessings.

Give us a greater concern for the welfare and happiness of Thy needy children everywhere. May we be glad and grateful that there is so much that we are able and privileged to share with others which will inspire them with hope and courage.

We penitently confess that we so often fail to see that we are taking the song and the sunshine out of the life of our fellow men by our surrender to a spirit which is sullen and selfish.

May our minds and hearts be radiant and glow with confidence as we face tasks and responsibilities which demand the dedication and devotion of our noblest manhood and womanhood.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 1953

ALMIGHTY GOD, we thank Thee for this new day with its infinite possibilities and wonderful opportunities.

Grant that we be calm and courageous as we find ourselves challenged by tasks which seem hopeless and by goals which seem far beyond our reach.

May we never allow our faith in Thee and in the triumph of righteousness to become eclipsed and our enthusiasm to become dulled and deadened by the devastating moods of doubt and despair.

Sustain us by Thy grace as we wait and watch patiently and prayerfully for the dawning of that glorious day when all our aspirations and labors for peace on earth and good will among men shall be crowned with the laurel of achievement and the diadem of Thy praise.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 1953

GOD OF ALL GOODNESS, we are again uniting our hearts in the fellowship of prayer, grateful for the many joys which cheer us and the trials which teach us to put our trust in Thee.

May we accept the tasks and responsibilities of our high vocation without fear or complaint for Thou art our widsom and strength, a very present help in time of trouble.

Help us to understand that in the building of a better world we must have the counsel and cooperation, the influence and impact of a united people.

Show us how we may overcome our feelings of pride and prejudice and may the day soon dawn when there shall be the spirit of peace and brotherhood among all the nations of the earth.

To Thy name we ascribe all the praise. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 22, 1953

ALMIGHTY GOD, we are entering upon a new week challenged by duties we cannot discharge and obligations we cannot meet and master unless we have the assurance of divine grace and guidance.

Grant that we may be emancipated from all feelings of fear and failure as we strive for the blessings of justice and peace which Thou hast ordained for mankind everywhere.

May we never withhold anything of insight and interpretation, of counsel and strength, which we may possess, that will contribute toward the right and speedy solution of our many national and international problems.

Give us a patriotism which is broadminded and big enough to discover and recognize that the unities which underlie our diversities and differences are the important and real things to safeguard and cultivate.

Hear us in the name of the Captain of our Salvation. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 1953

O THOU WHO ART THE GUIDING INTELLIGENCE in the life of men and nations, wilt Thou gird our minds and hearts with a courageous and cheerful spirit as we seek to do what Thou dost desire and demand.

We humbly confess that we do not know how to rightly read and interpret the rigor of the times, but may we believe that it is our highest wisdom to put our trust in Thy divine providence and not be afraid.

Grant that we may never allow the multitude and magnitude of our tasks and responsibilities to pall on us and fill us with a sense of futility and frustration.

Show us how we may strengthen the bonds of fraternity and friendship among all the members of the human family and may it be our constant and controlling purpose to establish peace on earth.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 1953

ALMIGHTY GOD, in our prayer at this morning hour, may we center all our petitions upon our individual self, for each needs Thee so greatly.

It is daily becoming increasingly clear that we cannot hope to build a better world unless we begin with our own life, striving to make it victorious over everything that undermines our character and defiles and corrupts our spirits and harms our fellow men.

We are not asking Thee that we may be better than someone else but that we may be better than ourselves and that our personal life may be transformed from what it is to what it ought to be.

Give us now, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour, the assurance of forgiveness and that peace which comes from pardon. Amen.

FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 1953

O THOU ETERNAL GOD, in this moment of quietness, we are coming unto Thee with our prayer of supplication for we have many longings and needs which Thou alone canst satisfy.

Give us a more vivid sense of Thyself for if our vision of Thee is cloudy then nothing else is clear and we continue to walk in darkness and are baffled by the mystery and hard experiences of life.

Grant that we may also have a deeper appreciation and understanding of our responsibilities toward all the members of the human family whose lives are blighted by fear, beshadowed by sorrows, and broken by tragedies.

We penitently confess that we are often very forgetful of Thee and Thy goodness and very indifferent and callous in our attitude toward humanity in its struggle for a fuller life.

Inspire us with the spirit of our blessed Lord who gave Himself for the world in a ministry of dedication and devotion and in perfect obedience to Thy holy will.

Hear us in His name. Amen.

SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 1953

ALMIGHTY GOD, we are beseeching Thee to guide us by Thy divine spirit in these days when we need greater wisdom and skill in finding the right approach and the right solution to our many national and international problems.

Grant that in our deliberations we may never be guilty of the dogmatism of the closed mind but may we be willing to keep our minds and hearts open to new insights, new interpretations, and new ways and means.

Help us to do justly and love mercy and walk humbly with Thee and see how vitally necessary it is for the sake of peace and harmony to be gracious and great enough to try and adjust ourselves to others and not always attempt to adjust them to ourselves and our way of thinking and living.

May we strive earnestly for right human relationships but above everything else may we seek to be right with God, for if we are not right with Thee we cannot be right with our fellow men and right about the things in life which are really important.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 1, 1953

GOD OF ALL GRACE, may we begin this new day with a sincere desire and determination to surrender ourselves unreservedly to Thy divine will which we know is far higher, holier, and wiser than our own.

Show us to what nobler qualities and loftier heights our human life may ascend in character and service when we follow Thy leading.

Grant that daily we may face our problems without timidity, our successes without pride, our disappointments without sullenness, and our failures without despair.

Inspire us to be tirelessly active in the great spiritual and social ministry of bringing release and redemption to the weary and heavy laden, the forlorn and forsaken, the haggard and hungry, and all who are in desperate plights and tormented by fear and foreboding.

Hear us in the name of the Captain of our salvation. Amen.

MONDAY, JULY 6, 1953

O THOU INFINITE AND GRACIOUS SPIRIT, as we go forth into the hours of this new day, may we be numbered among the seekers, the finders, and servers of God.

Grant that in these moments of prayer our minds and hearts may be made ready and adequate for the stern demands of every task and responsibility that we may meet on life's highway.

Help us to manifest the right spirit in all of our human relationships, and may that spirit bear the imprint of the mind of our blessed Lord, whose thoughts concerning His fellow men were always those of kindness and good will.

God forbid that we should ever look at mankind with a cold and supercilious stare, but inspire us with attitudes of sympathy and understanding.

Give us a clearer vision of the worth and dignity of the humblest member of the human family, created in the image of God and with a capacity to be like Thee in spirit.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JULY 7, 1953

O THOU GOD OF ALL GRACE AND GOODNESS, in these times of crisis and confusion, may we daily call upon Thy great and holy name not as a last resort but as our first desire and supreme delight.

May we never come unto Thee in a spirit of sullen submission but with joyous gratitude and with renewed trust and confidence.

Wilt Thou inspire us with a more willing and wholehearted obedience to Thy divine laws and a greater reverence for the moral and spiritual imperatives which Thou hast ordained.

Grant that our American way of life may be a strenuous and steadfast pursuit of those lofty ideals and principles which are the foundation stones of the noblest civilization.

Help us to understand that the mission and strength of our democracy consists in something more than negations and rejections and protests against wrong philosophies of government and society but in a clear and convincing witness to the more excellent way of brotherhood and good will.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

THURSDAY, JULY 9, 1953

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, in our plans and labors during this day, may we be supremely concerned about establishing a social order that reflects and incarnates Thy righteous purposes.

Wilt Thou bestow upon our minds and hearts the gift of clear vision, the optimistic outlook, and the unconquerable hope that this goal will some day be the blessed fulfillment and fruition of our noblest aspirations and desires.

May our President, our Speaker, and the Members of Congress be girded with wisdom, courage, and indomitable faith as they strive to break down all the barriers and iron curtains which impede the progress of the kingdom of righteousness and deprive mankind of the blessings of freedom.

Hear us in the name of the Christ. Amen.

FRIDAY, JULY 10, 1953

O THOU WHO HAST BLESSED US with the priceless gift of a beautiful new day, may there be nothing in our thoughts, words, and deeds of which we shall be ashamed when the sun has set or at the eventide of life when Thou dost call us to Thyself.

Inspire us with a loftier conception of the dignity and sanctity, the meaning and mission of life and may we have a clearer vision of its glory and greatness and peacefulness when spent in being good and doing good.

Grant that on the battlefields of life, as we struggle for the sovereignty of high ideals and principles, we may never become discouraged or despair of the reality of goodness and the triumph of righteousness.

Help us to feel that it is far better and nobler to fail in the right than to succeed in the wrong.

Hear us in the name of the Captain of Our Salvation whose strength is invincible and whose kingdom of love and peace will some day be gloriously victorious. Amen.

MONDAY, JULY 13, 1953

ALMIGHTY GOD, as we begin this new week, may we accept its challenge and opportunity to bring to our torn and troubled world the confidence and consolation of a great trust in Thee.

We know that the forces of evil, which are arrayed against us and storming the citadel of our freedom and faith, are terrible and terrific but not too mighty for Thy divine strength to withstand and conquer.

May we never fear to go forward into the hours of any new day when encouraged and encompassed with a vivid and vital sense of Thy grace which is sufficient for humanity's most urgent and desperate needs.

Help us to hasten the coming of the time when righteousness shall prevail and there will be peace and good will among all men and nations.

In Christ's name we invoke Thy blessings. Amen.

TUESDAY, JULY 14, 1953

O THOU WHO ART THE INSPIRATION of every noble ideal and principle, may we daily reaffirm our faith in Thy greatness and goodness and highly resolve to always dedicate and range our strength, our hopes and aspirations on the side of truth and righteousness.

Grant that in these days of destiny for the people of our beloved country we may believe that freedom and peace are worth fighting and sacrificing for and that Thou wilt sustain us in our battle for every righteous cause.

Inspire us with a more serene and steadfast faith in the reality and constancy of Thy divine love and power, lest we fail and falter and become the victims of discouragement and defeatism.

May we have the glad assurance that all things are working together for those who love Thee and that some day and in Thy own time our aspirations shall be gloriously fulfilled.

Hear us in the name of the Captain of our Salvation. Amen.

FRIDAY, JULY 17, 1953

O THOU ETERNAL GOD, as we again enter, for a brief moment, the sacred retreat of prayer, may our minds and hearts be the shrines and sanctuaries of Thy grace and presence.

We rejoice that Thou art always extending to us the overtures of Thy divine companionship and counsel in which we may find our joy and strength as we face difficult problems.

Grant that our character and conduct during this day may authenticate the reality and blessedness of the noble attributes and qualities of the life of our Lord. Give us His spirit and may we bear testimony to our kinship with Him.

Hear us for His sake. Amen.

MONDAY, JULY 20, 1953

GOD OF ALL GRACE AND GOODNESS, may we go forth into the hours of this new week with a supreme longing to know and do Thy will, for therein is our peace.

Grant that in every problem we may have the interpreting and guiding light of Thy Divine Spirit, for we humbly confess that we are frequently uncertain whether we have the right answer and whether we are choosing the best way.

May we never take a self-centered and self-interested attitude toward life but may we always be sensitive and responsive to Thy claims and demands and to the feelings and rights of others.

We pray that daily every desire and determination, every faculty and capacity of our being, with which we have been endowed, may be dedicated to the high and nobler task of building a finer spirit among all mankind.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

TUESDAY, JULY 21, 1953

ALMIGHTY GOD, in our prayer at this noon hour, we are beseeching Thee that we may be inspired and encouraged to cultivate and establish a nobler and more magnanimous spirit in all of life's human relationships.

We penitently confess that in our personal life there is frequently so much of indifference and selfish individualism, of pride and prejudice, of unneeded reserve and hurtful repression.

Grant that the day may dawn when Thy spirit shall prevail everywhere and when every knee shall bow unto Thee and every tongue confess that the Christ is the Lord to the glory of God.

Hear us in His name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JULY 23, 1953

O THOU WHO ART THE GOD AND FATHER of all mankind, daily we are praying that men and nations everywhere may be inspired to cultivate right feelings and attitudes toward one another.

May there be a sincere desire among our leaders in Government and all the members of the human family to break down the walks of antagonism and antipathy, of selfishness and suspicion, and supplant them with the beautiful highways of friendship and fraternity.

Grant that the character and conduct of our personal and national life may reveal and radiate the noble virtues of kindness and sympathy, of appreciation and understanding, of peace and good will.

We pray that nothing may ever dim our vision of that glorious day when Thy righteous will shall be enthroned in the heart of humanity.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

FRIDAY, JULY 24, 1953

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS SPIRIT, bless us in this moment of prayer with a strong and steady faith, a faith that is resolute and invincible, because it is placed, not in our own puny strength and finite wisdom but in the Lord God, omnipotent and omniscient.

We know that during this day we will be challenged with tasks which are far beyond our strength unless Thou sustain us. We will be baffled with problems beyond our wisdom unless Thou illumine us, and uncertain of our ways unless Thou guide us.

May we revel and rejoice in the glad assurance that Thy grace is sufficient for all our needs. Wilt Thou transform our strength into service and our wisdom into the guidance that is so desperately needed in the high enterprise of building a better world for all mankind.

Grant that our President, our Speaker, and all the Members of Congress may be inspired daily by lofty ideals, noble principles, clear vision, and indomitable courage as they seek to minister to bruised and broken humanity.

Hear us in the name of the Christ. Amen.

MONDAY, JULY 27, 1953

O THOU WHO HAST MADE US THE BENEFICIARIES of Thy bountiful providence, grant that we may know that Thou hast also made us the custodians of an inner moral and spiritual life which we must cultivate and guard as a sacred treasure.

Accept our gratitude for yesterday, the Lord's day, dedicated to the religious values and hallowed by that name which is above every name.

We penitently and humbly confess that we frequently have such a superficial and unworthy conception of the place and need of religion in our personal and national life.

We talk unwittingly about defending religion. It needs no defense, but it is always defending us against that which is ignoble and debasing. We talk proudly about sustaining and supporting religion and religious institutions and fail to see that these are the resources that are continually sustaining and supporting us in the battles of life.

Help us to hasten the coming of that day when it will no longer be necessary for any assembly, whether civil or ecclesiastical, to enlarge our statute books and make truces and treaties but when the current of all our desires shall mingle with Thine and we shall feel the romance and challenge of religion's lofty ideals and principles.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JULY 28, 1953

O THOU WHO ART OUR COMPANION AND COUNSELOR, grant that our life in these days may be great in faith, in vision, and in courage for vast multitudes of the human family are watching and waiting for a light to brighten the skyline of their hopes and dreams.

God forbid that we should ever fail to understand that the glorious task of inspiring humanity with lofty ideals and noble principles is far more important and potent in building a better world than any laws and legal codes which we may formulate and enact.

Show us how, in a democracy and a free world, we can make goodness and righteousness imperative. May we be used by Thee in dramatizing the glories of peace and giving moral and spiritual quality to the life of our citizens. Help us to inspire all mankind with greater respect for human personality and a greater reverence for Thee and the majesty and sovereignty of Thy divine will.

In Christ's name we offer our prayer. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 29, 1953

ALMIGHTY GOD, we are again opening the windows of our soul toward Thee, for we need the inspiration of the far-away look and the heavenly vision for the nearby task.

Grant us strength and serenity of mind and heart as we meet the challenge of problems and questions for which our human wisdom does not seem to have a satisfactory solution and a right answer.

Help us to see more clearly how important and vitally necessary it is for us to spend some time in being still and listening to Thy voice if we would gain a better perspective and know the right approach to the duties and responsibilities which baffle us.

May we daily avail ourselves of the great moral and spiritual resources which Thou hast placed at our disposal, lest we thwart our souls and do violence to our highest nature.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JULY 30, 1953

O THOU WHO WERT THE GOD OF OUR FATHERS and hast made us a nation great in material resources, may our prosperity and progress never cause us to lose sight of the need of building our Republic upon moral and spiritual foundations.

We pray that we may cultivate a capacity for utilizing and rightly interpreting the history and experiences of other nations and preceding generations which teach us that where there is no vision the people perish.

Help us in our times of adversity and untoward circumstances to feel the challenge of a faith that is adventurous and courageous and God fearing.

May all the Members of the Congress be men and women of light and of leading, bringing hope to the vast multitudes who are disappointed and discouraged and are tempted to surrender to disillusionment and defeatism, to fear and frustration.

In the name of the conquering Christ we offer our prayer. Amen.

FRIDAY, JULY 31, 1953

ALMIGHTY GOD, in the morning hour of this new day, we are again directing our minds and hearts toward Thee in the sacred attitude of prayer.

Help us daily to discipline and censor our thoughts for they are the progenitors of achievement and determine the issues of life, its character, and conduct.

God forbid that we should ever feel that we are not responsible for our thoughts.

May we never harbor and give lodgment to thoughts which are unworthy and ignoble, for experience teaches us so clearly that every thought by its very presence in our minds will tend to pass into action unless supplanted by other thoughts which are noble and true.

Grant that all our thoughts, desires, impulses, and tendencies may always be brought into a glad and willing obedience to the mind and spirit of our blessed Lord.

Hear us in His name. Amen.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 1953

O THOU DIVINE SOVEREIGN, in whose keeping and control are the destinies of men and nations, we are again facing tasks and responsibilities which demand the wholehearted consecration of every capacity, talent, and faculty with which we have been endowed.

Kindle within us a brave and joyous response to the challenge of taking an honorable part in giving to suffering and struggling humanity a new birth of freedom and hope.

Grant that when we encounter hardships we may never heed the counsels of despair and allow our energies to become paralyzed by any persuasion that our vision of universal peace is an illusion and a forlorn hope.

May the holy and just cause in which we are engaged never be betrayed by our indifference and unfaithfulness, by our doubts and fears, but inspire us with patience and determination and with unity of spirit and high resolve.

To Thy name, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we give all the praise. Amen.

MONDAY, AUGUST 3, 1953

O THOU INFINITE AND INFALLIBLE SPIRIT, may we begin, continue, and end this new day with high hopes, placing our confidence, however, not in human and temporal contingencies but in the divine and eternal certainties of Thy grace and power.

Show us how we may surmount all the hardships and difficulties which halt and hinder the coming of that blessed time when Thy righteous and beneficent purposes shall be brought to fulfillment and fruition.

Grant that, as we come to the close of this session of the Congress, we may have within our hearts the testimony that we have sincerely sought to incorporate Thy holy will into all the legislation that has been proposed and enacted.

Bestow the benediction of Thy presence and favor upon our President, our Speaker, our chosen Representatives, our beloved country, and all who serve our Nation in whatever capacity.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.

EIGHTY-THIRD CONGRESS

Second Session

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6, 1954

ALMIGHTY GOD, whose spiritual nature we cannot define and whose supreme sovereignty we cannot deny, in Thy divine keeping and control are the coming in and the going out of all our days.

Hitherto Thou hast blessed us and we have been the beneficiaries of a bountiful providence which never withholds from us anything that is needful.

Grant that daily, during this new session of Congress, we may enter the sacred retreat of prayer and be inspired with a clear and commanding vision of Thy holy will for ourselves and all mankind.

May our President, our Speaker, and the Members of this legislative body be endowed and encouraged with a vivid sense of Thy guiding presence and sustaining power as they respond to the high vocation of leadership in the affairs of government.

Hear us as we bow in adoration and unite in offering unto Thee the prayer of our Saviour, the Prince of Peace:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 1954

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, OUR FATHER, may we daily be more mindful of our filial relationship to Thee and more eager to cultivate a fraternal feeling toward all the members of the human family.

We pray that we may be numbered among those who are living and laboring together in the spirit of concord and cooperation, of sympathy and understanding, of amity and peace.

Grant that as the President and the Congress face the great responsibility of formulating and adopting plans and policies for the welfare of our beloved country and the whole world they may have the infallible guidance of Thy divine spirit.

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In all our deliberations and decisions may we be conservative without being reactionary, liberal without being radical, and conciliatory without being guilty of the sacrilege of surrendering our devotion to lofty ideals and principles.

May we be resolute and courageous in our determination to safeguard our heritage of freedom and the liberties which we cherish. Show us how we may undergird and strengthen the foundations of our Republic and champion every noble effort that is being made to bring peace and good will among men.

Hear us in the name of our blessed Lord. Amen.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 1954

O THOU WHO HAST ENTRUSTED US WITH THE GIFT OF LIFE, gird us with faith and fortitude as we seek to make it a valiant and victorious adventure.

May we be sensitive to the reality of Thy presence and power when we endeavor to bring to fulfillment and fruition those lofty ideals which Thou hast planted within our souls.

We pray that whenever we are confronted and challenged by dangers and difficulties we may be encouraged with the glad assurance that nothing can impede the progress and triumph of Thy righteous purposes.

Grant that having entered into the labors of others we may be inspired with a noble social interest to achieve a blessed inheritance for suffering and struggling humanity.

In Christ's name we offer our prayer. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 20, 1954

INFINITE AND ETERNAL GOD, the source of all our blessings, fill us now with reverence and humility as we unite our hearts in the sacred attitude of prayer.

We penitently confess that faith and doubt, hope and despair, courage and fear so frequently jostle one another in the multitude of our thoughts as we struggle to find the right solution to our many perplexing problems.

Grant that when we are harassed and haunted by feelings of uncertainty and misgiving we may be inspired by the interpreting and guiding light of Thy divine spirit which will enable us to carry on with confidence and cheer.

To Thy blessed name we ascribe all the praise. Amen.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 1954

O THOU GOD OF ALL GRACE AND GOODNESS, who alone canst minister unto our many needs, may we daily hear and heed Thy voice of companionship and counsel.

Grant that we may give ourselves completely and unreservedly to the leading of Thy divine spirit.

Show us how we may keep aglow the light of faith, and may the legislation which we are proposing and enacting here bring hope and relief to all who are discouraged and in distress.

May each new day be radiant with the glorious promise and portent of the dawning of that blessed time when there shall be an abiding peace upon the earth.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace who went about doing good. Amen.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 1954

ALMIGHTY GOD, at this noonday as we lift our hearts in prayer we are beseeching Thee that we may be more eager and earnest in our search to know Thy way and will for ourselves and all mankind.

Help us to meet our tasks and responsibilities with a brave and gallant spirit. May we be wiser because of the mistakes and failures of yesterday.

Take from us those fears which darken our vision and dwarf our capacities. Deliver us from all uncertainty and obscurity in our thinking about right and wrong.

Evoke in us a greater faith and teach us to trust Thee always, everywhere and to the uttermost.

Hear us in the name of our blessed Lord whose divine character is our noblest incentive to right living and heroic service. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1954

ALMIGHTY AND EVER-BLESSED GOD, in this brief moment of worship, may we be inspired with a vivid perception of life's noblest purposes and a clear vision of how best to serve Thee and our fellow men.

Grant that we may apprehend and appropriate by faith the inexhaustible resources of Thy grace which Thou hast placed at our disposal.

May nothing impair the strength and integrity of our character and conduct as we seek to prove worthy of the trust that our beloved country has placed in us.

We pray that the evening hours of each day may be radiant with joy and peace as we look back upon work well done.

Hear us in the name of our blessed Lord who has called us to be His partners in the glorious task of establishing on earth His kingdom of righteousness. Amen.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1954

O THOU GOD OF MAJESTY AND MERCY, grant that nothing during this day may undermine or eclipse our faith in Thy greatness and goodness, Thy presence and power.

May our sense of Thy divine sovereignty and sympathy transcend and supplant those feelings of anxiety and doubt which so often consume our strength and mar our peace.

Deliver us from all thought and tendencies which are alien to the mind and spirit of our blessed Lord as we seek to solve the problems of international relationships.

Show us how we may strengthen the ties of brotherhood and bring the members of the human family into a closer fellowship.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1954

ALMIGHTY GOD, we are again turning our thoughts toward Thee in praise and adoration for Thou art always blessing us according to our needs.

Grant that we may go forth into the hours of this day with a new accent of faith in Thee, a clearer vision of divine truth, and a larger measure of brotherly love.

Give us a vivid and vital sense of the place of religion in our personal and national life and may we accept not only its consolations but its challenge, its discipline as well as its delight.

Inspire us to make a more daring trial of its moral and spiritual values as we seek to lead humanity out of the bondage of darkness into the glorious liberty of the sons of God.

In Christ's name we offer our prayer. Amen.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1954

O THOU WHO WERT THE GOD OF OUR FATHERS we thank Thee that in the annals of our national history we have the record of men and women whose life and character enshrined our country's noblest traditions and loftiest ideals.

Today we are paying tribute to the memory of an American patriot whose supreme ambition was to know and do Thy will.

We rejoice that he always kept the windows of his soul open toward the unseen and eternal, whence came his wisdom, strength, and courage.

Grant that we also may be inspired with faith and hope as we enlist in a crusade to bring peace and freedom to all mankind.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1954

O THOU WHO ART MAN'S REFUGE AND STRENGTH in every generation, we thank Thee for this day in the annals of our national history when we are privileged to rehearse and remind ourselves of the illustrious qualities of character in the life of George Washington, whom we affectionately speak of as the Father of his Country.

Our hearts are inspired and enlarged with pride and patriotism as we call to mind his fidelity to the principle of human rights in championing the cause of the oppressed colonists, his fortitude in times of hardship, and his unwavering faith in divine providence.

Grant that in our own struggles with the forces of tyranny and despotism we may carry on with confidence and courage, having girded ourselves with the breastplate of righteousness, the shield of faith, and the sword of the spirit.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1954

O THOU WHO ART THE GOD AND FATHER OF ALL MANKIND, may we have a clear understanding of the great mission of our country and our responsibility in preserving and perpetuating its ideals and principles.

Help us to sense the need of Thy guiding and sustaining presence as we daily confront conditions and circumstances which are far beyond our finite wisdom and strength.

Reveal unto us the secret of joyous and victorious living and may we be alert to every opportunity to prove to the world that we are a God-fearing and peace-loving nation.

May we be lovers of concord and earnestly strive in the spirit of unity and brotherhood to find the wisest and best solution to our many national and international problems.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 1, 1954

ALMIGHTY GOD, whose divine laws and beneficent purposes are the only foundation of a social order wherein dwelleth righteousness and peace, we thank Thee for this new week.

Grant that daily we may be inspired to see that the human race, which is one in origin and destiny, must also be one in a great fellowship of good will and friendship, of sympathy and service.

Help us to understand that if our religious faith has in it the principle of the fatherhood of God then its practice must be that of the brotherhood of man.

Show us how we may hasten the dawning of that blessed time when the human heart shall be impervious to all feelings and attitudes of hatred and prejudice and bigotry.

May men and nations everywhere be partners in the moral and spiritual enterprise of building a nobler world order and may each day be radiant with the promises of a more magnanimous and brotherly spirit.

In Christ's name we bring our petitions. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 1954

ALMIGHTY GOD, OUR FATHER, by whose mercies we have been spared and by whose powers we are sustained in our earthly pilgrimage, we are coming unto Thee with a humble spirit and a contrite heart.

Gird us now with courage and with confidence in Thy loving kindness for Thou art never closer unto us than when our hearts are wrung with sorrow and our heads are bowed in tribulation.

We commend unto Thy gracious care and keeping our beloved coleagues, beseeching Thee that Thou wilt share Thine eternal wisdom with the doctors and nurses for Thou are the Great Physician who canst mediate unto them divine skill and enable them to do that which is far beyond all that we can ask or think.

Grant unto the members of the sorrowing and stricken families the consolations of Thy grace and, as they bravely carry on and faithfully and patiently keep the vigil of faith, hope, and love, may they have the blessed companionship of that Friend who sticketh closer than a brother.

We thank Thee for the beautiful spirit of Thy servant, so seriously ill, who has besought us to remember in our prayer those who have harmed us. May we also emulate the example of our blessed Lord who prayed, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

To Thy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour, we ascribe all the praise. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 1954

O THOU ETERNAL GOD, whose treasury of goodness is inexhaustible, we thank Thee for this day called Ash Wednesday, ushering in the blessed lenten season which reminds us that the soul of all culture is the culture of the soul.

Grant that in these perilous times, when tragic experience and evil tidings cause us to be pensive and smite us with fear, we may cultivate those spiritual resources and capacities which will make us adequate to face difficulties bravely and carry heavy responsibilities calmly.

We pray that Thou wilt continue to manifest Thy presence and healing power to those who are near and dear unto us and whose companionship and counsel we so greatly need as we aspire and struggle to achieve for all mankind the blessings of the more abundant life.

Hear us in the name of our blessed Lord whose guiding and sustaining grace is always available and within reach of us all. Amen.

FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 1954

GOD OF ALL GRACE, we are again coming unto Thee constrained by a love that will not let us go and compelled by longings which Thou alone canst satisfy.

Grant that on this day of world prayer our spiritual life, which is so often eclipsed by moods of doubt and fear, may be enriched and strengthened with a greater faith and hope in Thee.

We penitently confess that we are frequently more concerned with knowing the truth about mere material things than we are in knowing the truth about Thee and ourselves.

May we give ourselves unreservedly and completely to the guidance of They divine spirit as we carry on.

Hear us as, in our helplessness, we daily pray for our colleagues who are so desperately in need of that healing ministry which is more blessed than anything that the wisest and most skillful can give.

In Christ's name we humbly pray. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 8, 1954

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, at whose word of command all life was created and light first sprang out of darkness, we thank Thee for the gift of this new day.

We humbly beseech Thee that our hearts may be filled with a sense of Thy goodness and our minds illuminated with that divine wisdom which will make us equal to all our tasks and responsibilities.

We penitently confess that our vision is dim, our faith is feeble and we are tempted to despair as we look and labor for a better world wherein dwelleth righteousness.

Grant that Thy peace, which passeth all understanding, may dispel those doubts and fears which so frequently haunt us and hold us in captivity.

We pray that Thou wilt give health of body and peace of soul to our stricken colleagues. Bless the doctors and nurses with faith and skill as they minister tenderly unto all who are in suffering and pain.

Hear us in the name of the great Physician. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 1954

GOD OF INFINITE GRACE, at this morning hour, we are again seeking in the fellowship of prayer those blessings of wisdom and strength which we need for the duties and tasks of this day.

We rejoice that Thy fatherly heart and hand always open with love in response to those who humbly implore Thy divine guidance in the struggles and adventure of life.

May we lay hold of Thy promises and overtures of friendship with joy and confidence as we strive to build a world in which the troubled heart of humanity shall find peace.

Wilt Thou continue to grant recovery of health to our wounded colleagues. May we never lose hope for Thou canst lead us out of darkness into light and lift us out of death into life eternal.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1954

ETERNAL AND EVER-BLESSED GOD, who art our life, our joy and hope, we thank Thee for the privilege of ascending the heights of prayer to receive insight and inspiration in our quest and pursuit of the true, the beautiful, and the good.

We pray that Thou wilt give some special assurance of divine guidance to our President, our Speaker, and all the Members of the Congress as they faithfully seek to serve our generation.

May we be more sensitive and responsive to Thy companionship and counsel which we so desperately need in these days of turmoil and confusion.

Grant that the thoughts of our minds, the meditations of our hearts, the words of our lips, and the labors of our hands may always move in a blessed harmony and obedience to Thy holy will.

Hear us in our prayer for our needy brethren. May the doctors and nurses be blessed with wisdom-illumined minds and skillful hands as they eagerly strive to hasten their recovery to health and strength of body.

We give Thee all the praise and glory through Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 16, 1954

O THOU WHO ART THE LIGHT of our minds and the joy of our hearts, may we now be blessed with divine guidance lest we lose our way and wander in darkness.

May we heed the promptings and persuasions of Thy Spirit as we aspire to achieve that which is noblest and best for ourselves and all mankind.

Endow us with the gifts of spiritual insight and interpretation in our longings to lead groping humanity out of chaos and confusion.

Forgive us if we have a mistaken sense of the value of material things and are tempted to feel that our human problems can be solved on a purely economic basis, for man cannot live by bread alone.

We continue to commend our wounded colleagues to Thy care and keeping, beseeching Thee to share Thy infinite and infallible wisdom with all who are ministering unto them.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 17, 1954

ALMIGHTY GOD, who art always bestowing upon us the blessings we need, may our life this day be strong in faith and noble in service.

Grant that in all our deliberations we may bear clear and unmistakable testimony that we are sincerely seeking the truth and the right answer to our many difficult problems.

Lift us out of those unworthy tempers of mind that are alien and contrary to the spirit of our blessed Lord who went about doing good.

May we be numbered among those who are praying and laboring for the dawning of that day when mankind everywhere shall enjoy the blessedness of the more abundant life.

Bless with Thy healing touch our colleagues who have been wounded in body and fill their minds and hearts with Thy peace.

In Christ's name we humbly pray. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 22, 1954

INFINITE AND ETERNAL GOD, whose divine providence is ever round about us, inspire our minds and hearts this day with faith and fortitude, with wisdom and understanding.

May this moment of prayer be a veritable moment of vision when the light of heaven shall fill our souls and dispel all fear and foreboding.

Grant that our whole life may be permeated and pervaded by a spirit which seeks to help mankind in its longings and hopes for freedom and peace.

May we give sympathy and encouragement to the brokenhearted and heavy laden who, in their sorrows and struggles, are tempted to yield to defeatism and despair.

Wilt Thou bestow peace of mind upon our wounded colleagues as they daily fight so bravely to regain health of body and to Thy name, through Christ Jesus, our Lord, we shall ascribe all the praise. Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 1954

ALMIGHTY AND EVER-BLESSED GOD, in whose presence the greatest and wisest are but babes, lift us now to Thyself and endue us with the spirit of insight and understanding.

We humbly confess that we are often tempted to become discouraged and cynical when we find ourselves baffled and perplexed by problems for which we have no adequate solution.

Show us how we may drive away those dark clouds which eclipse our vision of that divine greatness which is too wise to err and that divine goodness which is too kind to injure.

May we daily experience a new nativity of faith and hope as we seek to lead groping humanity out of darkness into the glorious liberty of the sons of God.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 1954

ALMIGHTY GOD, we are again turning unto Thee in the sacred attitude of prayer—one in our search and need of Thy blessings.

Help us to deal with our problems in terms of humanity and to interpret the meaning of each new day in terms of the eternal.

Wilt Thou give us power and poise of spirit as we meet the dangers and delusions of our time.

May we never surrender to weakness and weariness, to frustration and fear, for all things are in Thy divine control.

Grant that we may be true to our high vocation of leadership in showing mankind the more excellent way of brotherhood and good will.

In the name of the Christ, our Lord and Saviour, we pray. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31, 1954

GOD OF GRACE AND GOODNESS, grant that our whole life during this day may be lifted into an atmosphere of spiritual refinement.

Give us moral courage as we contend with those great and vested wrongs which are continually storming the citadel of our souls.

Help us to hold in stern discipline every evil desire which seeks to undermine our character and tempts us to break faith with our better self.

May all the ambitions and aspirations which Thou hast planted within our minds and hearts grow into fuller strength and beauty.

Inspire us with an eager longing to enrich the well-being of mankind everywhere. May the spirit of good will and helpfulness have an ever-widening dominion.

Hear our prayer in Christ's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, APRIL 1, 1954

O THOU WHO ART THE GOD AND FATHER OF US ALL, we thank Thee for the privilege of communing with Thee in the fellowship of prayer.

We pray that Thou wilt come nearer unto us with Thy companionship and counsel than we have ever known.

May we be inspired with a new and greater faith in Thy divine power and wisdom, for we are very conscious of our own limitations as we face hard tasks and heavy burdens.

Wilt Thou bless every effort that the Congress is making to bring more of the comforts and happiness of home to all the members of the human family.

Grant that at the eventide of this day we may not be ashamed to leave the record of our work in Thy hands.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, APRIL 2, 1954

ALMIGHTY GOD, we thank Thee for this new day wherein we are privileged to live and labor.

Help us to understand the significance and importance of our duties and responsibilities and may no temptation entice us from discharging them faithfully.

Give us a wholehearted devotion to our appointed tasks and, at all times, the vision to see and the strength to do Thy holy will.

May we be openminded in our attitude to those views and opinions of our colleagues which may differ from our own.

Grant that we may be patient under provocation, charitable in our judgments, and respectful and courteous to all.

We earnestly beseech Thee that our President, our Speaker, and the Members of the Congress may have the guidance of Thy spirit in these days of peril and perplexity.

In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.

TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 1954

ALMIGHTY GOD, we are entering upon this new day with gratitude for the many blessings and bounties of Thy divine providence.

Thou art acquainted with and canst supply all our needs. Wilt Thou teach us so to ask that we may receive and so to seek that we may find every needed blessing.

Grant unto us the spirit of patience and obedience to Thy holy will. In our times of perplexity and uncertainty, be Thou our guide and counselor, and in our times of despair, be Thou our refuge and strength.

Sustain us with a confident and hopeful frame of mind as we labor to hasten the dawning of that day when nations shall dwell together under the sovereignty of the Prince of Peace.

Hear us in His name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 1954

ETERNAL GOD, OUR FATHER, may this be a day when we shall live on the high levels of loyal devotion to lofty ideals and principles.

Gird us with wisdom and power for our particular tasks and may we feel that it is Thy work in which we are engaged.

Awaken within our minds and hearts a sense of divine guidance and a dauntless courage to follow where Thou dost lead.

Continue to bless our beloved country, our leaders and chosen representatives, our homes and churches, our schools and colleges, our hospitals, our farms and factories and all our Army, Navy, and Air Forces which are seeking to defend out liberties.

May we go forward with faith in the Captain of our Salvation whose strength is invincible. Hear us in His name. Amen.

THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 1954

O THOU WHO ART THE INEXHAUSTIBLE SOURCE of all our blessings and the unshaken foundation of all our hopes, we thank Thee for the privilege and power of prayer.

We rejoice that we may constantly remind ourselves of the eternal truth that, "They who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint."

May this moment of communion with Thy spirit be for each of us a time of cleansing of heart and consecration of purpose as we seek to discharge faithfully our duties and responsibilities.

Give us humility of spirit and integrity of character and, at the close of this day, may we be worthy of receiving the benediction: "Well done thou good and faithful servant."

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 1954

O THOU GOD OF ALL MAJESTY AND MERCY, daily during this Holy Week, we are reminded of those events and scenes in the life of our blessed Lord whose sacred significance our finite minds cannot comprehend.

Give us the humble spirit and the contrite heart as we follow, in thought, the King of Kings who, on Palm Sunday, proclaimed His sovereignty and the High Priest who, on Good Friday, laid upon the altar the acceptable sacrifice of His own life for the sins of the world.

We penitently confess that we cannot fathom the mystery of His sufferings and death but may we find in it all the supreme revelation of a love that seeks our redemption and will never let us go.

May the days of this Passion Week evoke within us the faith and hope that the time is coming when the whole world shall be lifted by the spirit of the crucified Saviour and risen Lord out of its tragedies and tribulations, its chaos and confusion, into the glorious orbit of justice and righteousness. peace, and good will.

In His name we offer our prayer. Amen.

THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 1954

ALMIGHTY GOD, as we humbly and penitently draw near unto the cross of our Lord and Saviour, may we find our hearts being subdued and softened by that divine love which transcends all human love.

Help us now to believe and lay hold of the eternal truth that our lives are not in the grasp of a blind fate, which neither knows nor cares, but that we are in the keeping of One whose love forgives our sins, heals our sorrows, and dispels our fears.

May the memory of our Lord's holiness and purity of character, His humility and gentleness, His mercy and compassion, hallow every day and encourage and constrain us to bring unto Him our ills, our woes, and our doubts.

Grant that on the coming Easter Sunday our own souls may be raised to newness of life and be filled with joy and peace as we commemorate the glorious resurrection of the Christ who brought salvation to the world and built the "arch of faith in immortality" over the homes of the living and the graves of the dead.

During the recess may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.

MONDAY, APRIL 26, 1954

ALMIGHTY GOD, unto whom we must daily turn for wisdom and counsel, for strength and companionship, wilt Thou now answer our loftiest aspirations with Thy divine inspiration.

May the thoughts of our minds and the desires of our hearts be acceptable unto Thee and always on the side of whatsoever things are true and righteous.

Grant that when we are baffled and bewildered we may find our joy and peace in Thee. Deliver us from those fears which cause us to tremble and stand in weakness and encompass us with that glorious faith which will enable us to carry on in confidence and power.

Show us how we may develope new capacities of insight, endurance, and achievement as we seek to meet our tasks and responsibilities with renewed hope and courage.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 28, 1954

O THOU WHO ART ACQUAINTED WITH ALL OUR NEEDS grant that in our moments of prayer we may be blessed with a more vivid and vital sense of the great moral and spiritual realities.

May nothing darken or eclipse our vision of the nobility and strength of character we may attain unto if we believe in that which is good and follow it faithfully and courageously.

We pray that Thy divine spirit may discipline and give direction to the many and varied impulses and tendencies which seek to find lodgment in our souls.

Help us to appreciate and understand more fully that the secret of a happy and victorious life is that of a mind and heart centered upon and controlled by lofty ideals and principles.

In Christ's name we offer our prayer. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 3, 1954

ETERNAL GOD, who hast revealed the way and meaning of life, may there be nothing in our character and conduct during this day that shall be conrary to the spirit and purpose of our blessed Lord.

We penitently confess that we are frequently indifferent to Thy claims and defiant of the demands which Thou dost rightfully make of us.

Keep us more sensitive to the leading of Thy spirit and may we always submit ourselves gladly and unreservedly to Thy divine sovereignty.

Grant that in these troubled times we may have a valiant and victorious faith and may it defend us against all fears and inspire us to live and labor faithfully.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 4, 1954

ALMIGHTY GOD, OUR FATHER, as we again assemble in the fellowship of prayer, may we be blessed with the assurance of Thy guiding and sustaining presence.

Grant that our President, our Speaker, and all the Members of this legislative body may be richly endowed with clear judgment and wise decision.

May they be calm and courageous as they daily find themselves challenged by difficult tasks and heavy responsibilities.

Show us how our beloved country may lift and lead struggling humanity out of the lowlands of fear into the lofty heights of freedom.

May we continue to pray fervently and labor zealously for peace on earth and good will among men.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 5, 1954

O THOU INFINITE AND ETERNAL GOD, may Thy divine spirit of wisdom and power now fill us with sincere longings and aspirations to pursue and perform our appointed duties faithfully and courageously.

Grant that, when the future appears to be growing darker and we seem to be the victims of a conspiracy of wicked circumstances, we may be strengthened with a deepening experience of Thy sustaining grace.

Help us to believe that nothing can ever separate us from Thy love or extinguish that kindly light with which Thou art always encircling our life.

May we continue our earthly pilgrimage with joy and confidence, assured that as our days so also shall be our strength.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 6, 1954

ALMIGHTY GOD, who art near unto us in every place and at all times, throughout the entire day may we feel Thy presence in this Chamber, directing our deliberations and our decisions.

We pray that our vision of Thy divine purposes may never grow dim and our understanding of Thy will may never become darkened by our self-will and selfish interests.

Grant that in all our tasks we may have Thy help; in all our difficulties, Thy counsel; in all our dangers, Thy protection; and in all our sorrow, Thy consolation and peace.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 11, 1954

Exercises at the Illumination of New Portion and Dedication of the Rotunda Frieze

INVOCATION

O THOU INFINITE AND ETERNAL GOD, in whose divine keeping and control are the coming in and the going out of all our days, we rejoice that Thou wert the God of our fathers and that Thou art also the God of their succeeding generations.

We thank Thee for the large measure of genius and skill, of insight and inspiration with which Thou didst endow Thy servants whose artistry and handiwork portray and commemorate many of the great events in the annals of our national life.

May this not only be an hour of gratitude and commemoration but of consecration when we are uniting our wills in a more daring venture of faith and works to mediate to men and nations everywhere the blessings of freedom and peace.

Show us how we may release the hidden splendor of humanity and hasten the dawning of that blessed day when the spirit of man shall be too strong for chains and too large for imprisonment.

May our minds and hearts be aglow with confidence and courage as we continue to hope and pray that the whole earth may be a spiritual Garden of Eden and all the members of the human family shall live together in brotherhood and good will.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 1954

O THOU WHO ART THE SOURCE OF ALL OUR BLESSINGS may we daily appreciate more fully how dependent we are upon Thee and how confidently we may trust Thee.

We rejoice that Thou art always seeking to lift upon us the light of Thy countenance when we walk in darkness and giving Thy companionship when we are lonely and help for today and hope for tomorrow.

Kindle within our souls the sacred flame of lofty aspiration which shall consume all unworthy desires, and may we strive earnestly to adjust our wills to Thy divine will.

Grant that the day may soon dawn when the wandering feet of confused and struggling humanity shall find Thy ways of righteousness and peace.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 18, 1954

ALMIGHTY GOD, grant that during this day we may give ourselves reverently and devotedly in renewed consecration to our high calling as the servants of the State.

Help us to discover and develop those heroic and noble qualities of character and conduct which will enable us to remain steadfast and serene in the midst of trials and tribulations.

Endow us with the beautiful virtues of our blessed Lord and with a larger measure of faith and hope whereby the moral and spiritual values are protected and made potent in the life of humanity.

May we be loyal partners with all who are seeking to build our shattered and storm-tossed world on the foundations of righteousness and good will.

Hear us in the name of the Christ, our Saviour. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 20, 1954

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, we rejoice that Thou art able and always willing to help us solve our problems and conquer our difficulties.

Grant that we may not be scornful of our duties and callous to our responsibilities or cynical in our attitudes toward life when the candle of hope burns low and our faith has in it so little of trust and adventure.

May our confidence in Thee and in the triumph of righteousness never become eclipsed when evil and sinister forces threaten to destroy the peace and security of the world.

Show us how we may bridge the chasms which divide the members of the human family, and how we may break down those barriers of pride and prejudice which keep men and nations from doing their very best for one another.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 24, 1954

ALMIGHTY GOD, in whose fellowship our spirits are renewed, we thank Thee for this day with its many opportunities for service.

All our yesterdays are a glorious testimony that Thou wilt never withhold from us Thy divine companionship and counsel if we strive to walk uprightly and perform our duties faithfully.

We beseech Thee to manifest Thy presence and favor unto these Thy servants who are giving themselves courageously and devotedly to the high adventure of building a nobler civilization.

Fill us with a sincere and eager longing to preserve and cultivate those moral and spi.itual values which are so desperately needed in our efforts to bring peace and blessedness to all mankind.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

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TUESDAY, MAY 25, 1954

GOD OF ALL GRACE AND GOODNESS, may our whole outlook upon life during this day be lifted far above and beyond the narrow horizons of selfish interest, personal aggrandizement, and material ambitions.

Grant that in our attitudes toward others we may have within our hearts that gracious and magnanimous spirit which leaps over every artificial barrier and transcends all surface differences.

Help us to be more eager and effective as we strive to carry into our international relationships the logic and blessedness of the principles of brotherhood and friendship.

May we do all within our power to inspire mankind with a longing for peace and good will for we are confident that nothing else can drive out the hatreds and prejudices and heal the divisions and hostilities between the nations of the earth.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 26, 1954

ALMIGHTY GOD, inspire us now with a clearer vision of Thyself, a greater loyalty to Thy divine precepts and principles, a deeper sympathy with struggling humanity, a loftier conception of our duties and responsibilities, and a surer mastery over our own life.

Grant that in the business of this day we may manifest toward one another the attitudes of sincerity, of forbearance, of trust and kindly judgment and may we never allow the black clouds of suspicion and selfishness, of discord and dissension to gather and obscure our essential oneness. May we give ourselves unreservedly to our lofty mission.

God forbid that we should fail to see how absolutely necessary it is for us, as citizens and leaders in the life of our Republic, to get together and hold together if our Nation is to survive and be strong enough to face and overcome the dangers of our time.

Help us to find and cultivate the spirit of fellowship in service. May we, as comrades in a common cause, understand more fully that our beloved country has tremendous resources, lying unused, which can only become effective for the welfare of mankind if we have the spirit of concord and cooperation.

Hear us in the name of our blessed Lord. Amen.

FRIDAY, MAY 28, 1954

GOD OF ALL WISDOM, whose beneficent sovereignty we cannot doubt and whose overtures of sacrificial love we cannot spurn, may we daily become increasingly aware of our need of Thy guiding spirit as we face our own personal problems and seek in some real and practical way to help mankind bear its heavy burdens and find the way to peace.

Grant that amid the strain and stress of life's hard and difficult experiences, when we are tempted to yield to defeatism and despair, may we have within our hearts the unshakable confidence that Thy divine providence is ever 'round about us.

May the presence and message of the ruler, whose small nation stood forth bravely as one of the calvaries of democracy, stir our hearts with compassion and with a yearning to lift smitten and afflicted humanity out of its miseries and struggles into the glorious liberty of the sons of God.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 2, 1954

ALMIGHTY GOD, of whose bountiful grace we have all received, grant that throughout this entire day we may have the blessing of Thy presence and power which will make us equal to every task and responsibility.

What more do we need for strength and support, for faith and courage than the joyous and triumphant assurance of Thy greatness and goodness.

May our minds and hearts be inspired with the supreme ambition to do Thy will more perfectly and to begin each day with the prayer, "What wilt Thou have me be and do?"

Help us to play our part bravely in the adventure of life and to follow faithfully the ways which Thou hast marked out for us.

Hear us in the name of the Christ who is the way, the truth, and the life. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 1954

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, in our daily task of building a better world, may we look upon mankind as a family and all men as brothers and children of God.

We penitently confess that our minds are frequently bound and clouded by conventional prejudices and false social standards of one kind and another, which keep us from a true understanding of the lofty moral values of human personality.

May the many barriers which prevent us from rightly valuing the worth of our fellow man be broken down and supplanted by a keener appreciation of the noble qualities in the life of all the members of the human family.

Grant that we may have a larger part in establishing a finer social order and a civilization in which men shall live together in the spirit of fraternity and friendship.

Hear us in the name of the Christ who went about doing good. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 7, 1954

INFINITE AND ETERNAL GOD, may our whole life during this day be brought into oneness with Thy spirit and Thy divine purposes.

Give us a clear vision of the blessedness we may achieve for ourselves and all mankind by courageously accepting and following the principles and ideals of democracy.

Grant that we may give the spirit of democracy that larger geographical and numerical expansion which is inherent in the truths that it proclaims.

Inspire us with a sincere desire to cultivate and bring to fruition those noble moral and spiritual aspirations and values which thou hast planted within the soul of humanity.

In Christ's name we offer our prayer. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 1954

O THOU WHO ART THE GUIDING INTELLIGENCE in the life of men and of nations, may all the deliberations and decisions of this day give clear and unmistakable testimony to our supreme ambition to do Thy holy will devotedly and courageously.

Grant that in our search for the right solution to our many difficult problems we may yield our finite spirits, in humility and obedience, to the leading of Thy divine spirit, assured that Thou wilt guide us rightly.

May we daily remind ourselves of our sacred oath of office and that we have solemnly sworn to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that we will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that we have taken this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that we will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which we have entered.

So help us God, in the name of our blessed Lord and Saviour. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 1954

ALMIGHTY GOD, OUR GRACIOUS BENEFACTOR, we rejoice in the high and holy privilege of calling ourselves citizens of this beloved country which Thou hast blessed so abundantly.

Grant that our American way of life may be a resolute, patriotic, and heroic allegiance and dedication to the lofty ideals and principles which Thou hast ordained.

Give us depth of insight and daring of devotion in these dark and confused days as we seek to solve difficult economic, political, and social problems.

Inspire us with a willingness to make every sacrifice in our struggles to preserve the sanctity and security of our Nation and in our efforts to establish a nobler spirit of unity and fellowship among all the members of the human family.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 15, 1954

O THOU WHO ART ENTRUSTING US WITH A NEW DAY, in passing so brief and in portent so vast, grant that we may use its hours worthily and for Thy glory and the welfare of humanity.

Wilt Thou manifest Thy wisdom and favor, in some special way, to our President, our Speaker, and the Members of Congress as they seek to discharge their duties in the fear of the Lord and with pure and steadfast devotion.

Inspire us to continue to pray fervently and labor earnestly for the dawning of that blessed time when the thoughts of men shall go out toward one another in the spirit of good will.

Show us how we may conquer those diabolical and devastating ambitions which are raging in the minds of some nations and transform them into lofty aspiration for amity and universal peace.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 1954

ALMIGHTY AND EVER-BLESSED GOD, grant that, in our plans and labors of this day, we may be worthy of receiving the seal of Thine approval and Thy fatherly benediction.

Guide us by Thy spirit and may we always serve Thee with gladness of heart and with joyous confidence in Thy sustaining grace.

We humbly confess that we need Thee so greatly in these perilous days when we are challenged by tasks and responsibilities which are far beyond our finite wisdom and strength.

May the social order and way of life, which we are seeking to establish upon the earth, bear witness to our kinship with Thy divine spirit and be well pleasing unto Thee.

Hear us in the name of our blessed Lord. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 1954

ALMIGHTY GOD, as we again come unto Thee with our many needs, wilt Thou grant unto us wisdom of mind, sympathy of heart, clearness of vision, and depth of understanding.

May we daily follow the leading of Thy spirit in faith and fortitude, in humility and patience and seek to be more like the Master in character and conduct, in thought, word, and deed.

We penitently confess that we are frequently selfish and self-willed, and that we live so much for ourselves and so little for struggling humanity, baffled by the mysteries of life, burdened by tribulation, beshadowed by sorrows, and heartbroken by tragedies.

Help us to see more clearly that our high vocation is not merely that of legislating and enacting laws which compel obedience but to inspire mankind with that spirit of love and goodwill which is majestic in the humility, and infinite and undefeatable in the willingness to suffer and endure.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 21, 1954

O THOU WHO ART THE ONLY SOURCE of wisdom and power that can make and keep us strong and courageous in character and conduct, may we daily bring our life into harmony with the enduring principles of truth and righteousness.

Inspire us with a sincere desire to cultivate a growing interest and capacity for the nobler and more magnanimous qualities of mind and heart.

We penitently confess that we are continually consulting and following our own personal inclinations in preference to Thy divine will and purpose.

May we never interpret and look upon our high vocation merely as a way of making a living but as a glorious opportunity to minister to the welfare of humanity and lift it into higher levels of thought and feeling.

We thank Thee for Thy servant who now dwells with Thee in eternal blessedness. Thou hast opened unto him the gateway to a larger service and received him into Thy holy presence. Grant unto the members of his bereaved family the consolations of Thy grace.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23, 1954

ALMIGHTY GOD, we are thankful for this new day and the opportunity which it affords us of having a part in solving difficult national and international problems.

Grant that the lofty ideals and principles of truth and righteousness, justice and good will may be the foundation stones upon which we are seeking to build a better world.

May we be confident that the vision of universal peace is not an idle dream, but something which is divinely inspired and ordained.

Help us to understand more clearly how greatly we need the guidance of Thy spirit as we strive to bring men everywhere into right relations to Thee and their fellow men.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 24, 1954

O THOU WHO HAST REVEALED UNTO US the nobler and better way of life, we rejoice that in many directions we are witnessing signs of spiritual awakening and moral enrichment.

Inspire us with that greater faith which believes that the destiny of man is a destiny of moral and spiritual progress toward that glorious goal when man shall be perfect even as our Father in Heaven is perfect.

Show us how we may mobilize and strengthen all those forces whereby we may achieve a renewal of personal character and a regeneration of human society.

Fill us with a sense of responsibility to bring to fulfillment that majestic promise of a time when the kingdom of righteousness and peace and good will shall be established upon the earth.

May we daily pray and labor earnestly for a wider diffusion of the spirit of our blessed Lord and a wholehearted enthronement of His ideals and principles.

To Thy name we ascribe the glory. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 28, 1954

GOD OF ALL GRACE, in this brief moment of prayer, may we enter into a closer and more intimate fellowship with Thy Spirit, the source of light and power, of joy and peace.

Give us the faith, the wisdom, and the strength to discharge our duties faithfully and meet out difficulties and disappointments bravely and patiently.

Grant that, as we go in and out among our fellow men, we may carry with us a hopeful and helpful spirit which will inspire them with indomitable courage and unfaltering trust.

Make us more conscious of our responsibility to bring comfort and cheer to the brokenhearted and the weary who are staggering under heavy burdens.

May we daily cultivate an attitude of sympathy and understanding toward the feelings and needs of all who have seen their fondest dreams and cherished plans go down in defeat before the inroads of circumstances over which they have had no control.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 29, 1954

ALMIGHTY God, we thank Thee for this new day and we beseech Thee that we may interpret each hour as a glorious opportunity to enlarge and enrich the welfare of our beloved country and all mankind.

Impart unto us a clear vision and understanding of the sound economic, political, social, moral, and spiritual principles which must undergird and sustain our prosperity and our progress.

Grant that we may seek to do Thy will more perfectly, for in the doing of Thy will is our peace.

Inspire us to strive earnestly to make a worthy contribution to the high adventure of establishing, here upon the earth, that noble spiritual order of life which the Master called the Kingdom of God.

To Thy name we ascribe all the glory. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30, 1954

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, wilt Thou now kindle within our souls a spirit that is more akin to Thy spirit, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, of sympathy and service.

We humbly confess that we are not wise enough to solve our many difficult problems and to interpret rightly the meaning of the hard and baffling experiences which we are continually encountering.

Show us how we may lay hold of the great eternal resources of spiritual insight and power as we seek to achieve the blessings of freedom and peace for ourselves and all mankind.

Grant that daily we may grow in faith and fidelity and be strengthened with courage to labor and with patience to wait for the time when the souls of men and nations shall be filled with the spirit of love and good will.

In the name of our blessed Lord we pray. Amen.

THURSDAY, JULY 1, 1954

O THOU ETERNAL GOD, OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, in the stress and strain of these days, may the assurance of Thy sustaining presence and conquering power be our refuge and strength, banishing our fears and enabling us to carry on triumphantly and joyously.

Grant that our attitude toward life's mysteries and complexities may never be one of cynicism and defeatism but of faith and hope, for Thou hast created us for victory and not for failure.

May we be numbered among those who are striving to do Thy will and to establish upon this earth a finer social order and nobler civilization.

Inspire us to seek and rejoice in the way of Thy commandments and may we obey them faithfully and with gladness of heart.

To Thy name, through Christ Jesus, our Lord, we ascribe all the praise. Amen.

FRIDAY, JULY 2, 1954

ALMIGHTY GOD, humbly and confidently, we are again turning unto Thee in the sacred attitude of prayer, mindful of Thy blessings in all our yesterdays and encouraged by Thy gracious promises of help for each new day.

May we appreciate more fully that of no one else can we ask so much and none other is so able and willing to supply our many needs.

Grant that we may have a clear vision and understanding of our problems and the realities of life, seeing them in their right perspectives and proportions and daring to face them bravely.

May the spirit of our minds and hearts always be the spirit of integrity and justice, of unity and charity, and sympathy for all who are baffled and dismayed by the vicissitudes of life.

In Christ's name we bring our petitions. Amen.

TUESDAY, JULY 6, 1954

ALMIGHTY GOD, we thank Thee for that great day in our national history, called Independence Day, which we were again privileged to commemorate and celebrate.

We rejoice that the God, who guided and sustained our forefathers in the long ago, is also our God and that He will be the God of our children and all succeeding generations.

May we daily pledge allegiance and fidelity to the principles and convictions of the Founding Fathers and never allow the light of freedom to become extinguished.

Grant that we may covet and cultivate the spirit of unity, for our beloved country cannot maintain its liberty and occupy a sacred place of influence and power in wisely shaping the life and destiny of mankind so long as there is discord and absence of harmony.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 7, 1954

GOD OF ALL GOODNESS, we are again coming unto Thee in the fellowship of prayer, beseeching Thee to inspire us with Thy spirit and to bestow upon us the blessings of the larger and more abundant life.

Hear us as we daily remember in our petitions our President, our Speaker, the Members of Congress, and all who are charged with the responsibility of administering the affairs of Government.

Grant that they may seek and follow sincerely and eagerly the ways which Thou hast marked out for us. Encourage and uphold them with the assurance of divine counsel as they labor to build the kingdom of righteousness.

Fill our minds and hearts with great hopes and open unto us a vista to that glorious day when men everywhere shall be delivered from the bondage of hatred and fear and live together in peace and good will.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

TUESDAY, JULY 13, 1954

ETERNAL AND EVER-BLESSED GOD, may our life in the hours of this new day be radiant with the realization of Thy presence and power which we so greatly need.

Grant that we may have the leading of Thy wise and gracious spirit in all our plans and labors to solve the difficult and perplexing problems of human relationships.

May we never go forth in our own wisdom and strength, but make us eager to seek divine counsel and guidance.

Inspire us with a confidence and courage, which knows no defeat, as we daily dedicate ourselves to the task of enthroning the spirit of peace and good will among the nation's of the earth.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JULY 15, 1954

ALMIGHTY GOD, in the quietness of this moment of worship, may we become more keenly aware of the divine strength which surrounds us and the divine wisdom which Thou hast placed at our disposal.

We penitently acknowledge that we so frequently allow ourselves to become bewildered by things that do not matter, bewildered by problems of our own imagination, and worried by that which does not exist.

Pardon all our fickleness and foolishness, our doubt and distrust. May no willfulness of temper, no rebellion of mind, no perversity of spirit cloud our vision of Thyself, who art our life, our strength, our hope.

Grant that we may be inspired to do Thy will more perfectly, for in the doing of Thy will is our peace.

Show us today what kind of legislation will be most helpful as we seek to minister to the welfare and happiness of the poor, the sick, the aged, the lonely and discouraged, and the needy members of the human family.

Hear us in the name of our beloved Lord. Amen.

MONDAY, JULY 19, 1954

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, who art closer than breathing, nearer than hands and feet, we desire to begin, and to continue and to end this new week with Thee.

May our thoughts and activities always be permeated and controlled by a noble and magnanimous spirit, and may we be loyally joined in mind and heart with all who are earnestly striving to establish peace on earth.

Grant that there may be nothing in the work of any day of which we shall be ashamed when the sun has set or at the eventide of life when Thou dost call us to Thyself.

Inspire us with obedience and fidelity to the divine commandment to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with the Lord, our God.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JULY 20, 1954

ALMIGHTY GOD, OUR HEAVENLY FATHER, who hast revealed unto us the way of blessedness, we are again calling upon Thy great and holy name for by Thy power we are sustained and strengthened to meet and discharge our tasks and responsibilities with quietness and confidence with renewed energy and hope.

Help us to appreciate more fully how greatly we need divine wisdom and guidance and that Thou hast placed at our disposal the inexhaustible resources of Thy grace.

Grant that daily we may hear and heed Thy voice for the ways which Thou hast marked out for us are the ways of pleasantness and peace.

Encourage us with a clear vision of the final triumphant fulfillment of our loftier hopes and aspirations for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth and of His kingdom of righteousness and justice there shall be no end.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 21, 1954

GOD OF ALL GRACE, as we go forth to discharge the duties of each new day, we are becoming increasingly conscious that we need a strength and a support which come from a source far greater than the ingenuities of our own finite minds.

We humbly confess that our beloved country is daily challenged by vast problems which are testing to the uttermost the wisdom and understanding, the patience and perseverance of our President, our Speaker, and the Members of Congress.

Help us to realize that a greater accumulation of material resources and this world's goods can never be the only remedy to cure and the only means to solve our social, economic, political, moral, and spiritual troubles and difficulties.

Lord, increase our faith in Thee and Thy divine providence and may it be a faith that is strong and steadfast, a growing faith that is large enough to meet with courage all our expanding needs and varied experiences.

In Christ's name, our Lord and Saviour, we bring our petition. Amen.

THURSDAY, JULY 22, 1954

ALMIGHTY GOD, in these days of crisis and ordeal may we be blessed with that divine insight and inspiration which will make us capable of the noblest thoughts and the most courageous actions.

Help us to understand that we cannot remain strong and steadfast amid all the pressures of fear and frustration, of cynicism and doubt, of self-seeking and personal aggrandizement that are continually playing upon us unless we have a vivid and vital sense of Thy presence and power.

Grant that we may be sensitive and attentive to the guidance of Thy Spirit as we seek to know what kind of legislation will be most helpful in lifting mankind to new and higher levels of peace and happiness.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 28, 1954

GOD OF ALL GOODNESS, in the morning hour of this new day may we feel the divine urge to perform our tasks and responsibilities with a full measure of fidelity and devotion.

Grant that in the terrific moral and spiritual struggles of our generation we may never manifest a spirit of surrender or betrayal of lofty principles.

Inspire us daily with that resolute and invincible spirit which knows how to meet great issues with faith and serenity.

Hear us in the name of our blessed Lord. Amen.

THURSDAY, JULY 29, 1954

ALMIGHTY GOD, we are again turning unto Thee in the sacred attitude of prayer, compelled by needs which Thou alone canst supply and constrained by a love that is far beyond all our human understanding.

Inspire us now with a stronger conviction of the power of spiritual ideals and principles as we struggle against the forces of evil which are seeking to conquer and enslave the world.

Grant that in our longings and labors for peace on earth and good will among men we may never feel that we are following a forlorn hope or a vague impossibility.

May we daily be strengthened and sustained by a clear vision of the triumph of reason and righteousness and the assurance that Thou art able to do for us exceeding abundantly above all we can ask or think.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 3, 1954

ETERNAL AND EVER-BLESSED GOD, we rejoice that Thy divine love and strength will never fail or forsake us as we face difficult tasks.

We humbly confess that we are daily holding counsel together to consider what is best for our beloved country but our efforts still seem so futile and fruitless.

Grant that we may place our faith and hope in Thee for Thou art the God of all wisdom and in the doing of Thy will is our peace.

Give us a clear vision of that which is important and vital and may we find the secret of living contentedly, happily, and victoriously.

Hear us in the name of the Christ, who is the way, the truth, and the life. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4, 1954

ALMIGHTY GOD, may this be a day when we shall accept wholeheartedly the God-appointed and God-revealed way of life and seek to walk in it faithfully and without fear.

Grant that we may never place the supreme emphasis upon material gains and temporal rewards but may every hour be hallowed by lofty aspirations and sincere endeavors to achieve that which is spiritual and eternal.

Inspire us with a greater longing to emulate and manifest in our daily character and conduct those spiritual realities and qualities which were always regnant in the life of our blessed Master.

Give us now some special token of Thy covenant love and may we live out each day in faith, in faithfulness, and in the fear of the Lord.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 1954

O THOU WHO HAST ENTRUSTED our President, our Speaker, and the Members of Congress with a high vocation, grant that they may take great pride in their loyalty and devotion to the welfare of our country.

May every citizen earnestly seek to add splendor and nobility to the life of our Republic by cultivating those lofty spiritual virtues which were the secret of the strength and greatness of the Founding Fathers.

Show us how we may be the worthy partners of all who are striving to build a social order that has in it the spirit of brotherhood and good will, of justice and righteousness, of kindness and charity.

Inspire us to do Thy will and help us to hasten the coming of the time when every human need shall be supplied and there shall be peace on earth.

Hear us in the name of our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 10, 1954

O THOU GREAT GOD, OUR CREATOR AND BENEFACTOR, whose blessings are abundantly sufficient for our many needs, show us how we may help mankind attain unto new and nobler standards of life and add to its richness and glory, its wonder and joy.

Inspire us with a greater concern for human rights and human welfare and may men and nations learn the art and the blessedness of living and walking together in peace.

We are daily praying that those who hold positions of leadership may be endowed with wisdom and understanding, faith and fortitude, patience and perseverance as they plan and labor to lead and lift humanity to the high plateau of brotherhood.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 11, 1954

ALMIGHTY GOD, as we turn our minds and hearts toward Thee in worship, wilt Thou illumine them with a radiant revelation of Thyself and Thy holy will and a clear vision of the mission and meaning of our own life.

May we be loyal coworkers with all who are striving to lead our divided and distracted world into the ways of unity and fellowship and peace.

Grant that men everywhere may be inspired with longings for a deeper personal experience and a wider application of the moral and spiritual principles which Thou hast ordained.

Give us a greater faith in the supremacy and conquering power of righteousness, justice, and love as we struggle to gain the mastery over the evil and devastating forces of hatred, suspicion, prejudice, and selfishness.

Hear us in the name of the Captain of our salvation. Amen.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 1954

GOD OF ALL GRACE, whose blessings cannot be numbered and whose treasury of goodness is inexhaustible, lift us now to the lofty spiritual heights, whence cometh our wisdom and strength for each new day.

Grant that we may never place our supreme confidence in human ingenuity, but in the God of all wisdom and blessedness.

May our vision of the coming of the kingdom of righteousness never fade. Inspire us to carry on with humility and courage, trusting in Thy faithfulness.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

MONDAY, AUGUST 16, 1954

ALMIGHTY GOD, at the beginning of this new week, we are humbly and earnestly beseeching Thee that the whole course of our lives may be directed in true accord with Thy divine will.

Grant that in the welter of life's many conflicting calls and claims we may be inspired by the assurance of Thy sustaining presence to serve our generation faithfully.

Help us to see more clearly that our human life has no defense against despair and defeatism unless we cultivate a greater faith in Thee, whose wisdom is infallible and whose strength is invincible.

Emancipate our troubled and trembling spirits from fear and anxiety and may we put our hands in Thine and hear and heed Thy voice as Thou dost say unto us, "This is the way, walk ye therein."

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 17, 1954

O THOU WHO ART THE SOURCE of every good and perfect gift, we thank Thee for this noon hour when we are again privileged to assemble in the fellowship of prayer.

Inspire our baffled minds and burdened hearts with vision and valor, and may we daily go forth on our quest of the true, the beautiful, and the good as crusaders, courageously following the Captain of our salvation.

Help us to look upon life as a glorious enterprise and constrain us to give ourselves resolutely to the arduous task of building the kingdom of righteousness and justice, of love and good will among men and nations.

Grant that in our plans and labors we may always seek the guidance of Thy spirit, for we are so frequently in doubt as to what we ought to do and how to accomplish that which is needful.

Hear us in the name of the Christ. Amen.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 1954

ALMIGHTY AND ETERNAL GOD, we are daily coming unto Thee with needs which can only be supplied by Thy divine grace and with longings and aspirations which Thy divine wisdom alone can fulfill.

Help us to appreciate more fully the privilege and opportunities we have of walking with one another in friendship and of working together in the glorious task of building a nobler civilization.

May our witness to the greatness and grandeur of the democratic way of life, free from false and formal distinctions, be so clear and commanding that men everywhere shall find their hearts kindled with joy and hope.

Hear us in the name of our blessed Lord. Amen.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 20, 1954

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, may our thoughts now go out toward Thee in adoration and thanksgiving, for hitherto Thou hast blessed us and daily we have dwelt in safety under the canopy of Thy divine providence.

Grant that when the hour of adjournment comes we may have within our minds and hearts the testimony of having sincerely tried to discharge the duties and responsibilities of our high calling with a pure and steadfast devotion to Thee and our fellow men.

We are leaving this Chamber commending and committing one another to Thy love and care and beseeching Thee that the benediction of Thy praise and peace may rest upon our President, our Speaker, our chosen Representatives, and all who, in this 83d Congress, have had the sacred privilege of serving our beloved country.

May the Lord bless us and keep us; may the Lord make His face to shine upon us and be gracious unto us; may the Lord lift upon us the light of His countenance and give us peace. Amen.

EIGHTY-FOURTH CONGRESS

First Session

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 5, 1955

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, with a humble spirit and a contrite heart we worship and adore Thee for Thou are the supreme ruler of the universe and the guiding intelligence in the life of men and nations.

We render unto Thee the tributes of praise and gratitude, for the coming in and the going out of all our days and years have always been in the beneficent care and control of Thy divine providence.

Grant that we may enter upon this 1st session of the 84th Congress with faith, hope, and love and with the glad assurance that Thou art willing and ready to place at our disposal the infinite and inexhaustible resources of Thy grace and goodness.

May it be the goal of all our aspirations and endeavors to build a finer social order and may our vision of the ultimate triumph of justice, righteousness, and peace never become eclipsed by fear as we lay hold of tasks and responsibilities which challenge and demand the fidelity and consecration of our noblest manhood and womanhood.

Hear us as we bow in adoration and unite in offering unto Thee the prayer of our Saviour, the Prince of Peace:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 1955

ALMIGHTY GOD, as we daily assemble in this Chamber to legislate for the highest welfare of our beloved country, may our thoughts and desires, our deliberations and decisions, always be in harmony with Thy holy will and Thy divine plans and purposes.

Inspire us with a clear perception of those moral and spiritual laws and principles which Thou hast ordained as the only sure foundation on which to build a nation with an expanding character and influence and an enduring civilization.

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Grant that we may be men and women in whom our fellow men and all mankind can repose the utmost confidence and who are walking worthy of the high vocation with which we have been entrusted.

May our President, our Speaker, and all our chosen representatives be blessed with wisdom and understanding, with faith and fortitude, as they strive to hasten the dawning of that glorious day when there shall be peace on earth and good will among men.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

MONDAY, JANUARY 17, 1955

ETERNAL AND EVER-BLESSED GOD, who art the wisest of all counselors and the dearest of all companions, Thou knowest how greatly we need Thee as we daily encounter difficult tasks and heavy responsibilities.

We humbly confess that our fallible and finite minds are frequently confused and confounded by problems and questions for which we have no adequate solution and no satisfactory answer.

Inspire us with a vivid sense of Thy guiding intelligence and Thy sustaining power whenever we are tempted to surrender to moods of fear and defeatism.

Make us more receptive and responsive to the overtures of Thy grace and fortify us against those tensions and frustrations which deplete our strength and disturb our peace.

Hear us in the name of the all-conquering Christ. Amen.

MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 1955

ALMIGHTY GOD, we thank Thee for this new day, affording and challenging us with many opportunities to serve our generation and minister to the needs of humanity.

Grant that we may not be recreant to any duty or afraid to raise our voices and take our stand on the side of those programs of legislation which are just and righteous.

Show us how we may have a large and vital part in helping our beloved country to be true to its highest potential and its God-ordained destiny.

We beseech Thee that in our hopes and longings to build the way of amity and comity among all mankind, we may see how imperative it is to remove the roadblocks of pride and prejudice of selfishness and personal aggrandizement.

Inspire us with a greater loyalty to the principle of reverence for the sanctity and worth of human personality and human dignity.

Hear us in the name of our blessed Lord. Amen.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 1955

GOD OF ALL GRACE AND GOODNESS, of all wisdom and power, Thou art our refuge in the stillness of the night and our strength in the struggles of each new day.

We humbly and penitently implore Thee that we may be blessed with insight and inspiration, with indomitable courage and confidence to meet aright the serious and critical decision which now confronts us.

Grant that our President, our Speaker, the Members of Congress, and all the citizens of our Republic may be endowed with calmness of spirit, clarity of judgment, and a glorious faith in the invincibility of Thy divine strength and love which is ever round about us.

May we face the future with a larger and more daring faith, a faith that puts iron into our blood and hope into our hearts, a faith that fears man so little because it fears God so much, a faith that always avails itself of the inexhaustible resources of divine love, a faith that daily prays and labors for peace on earth and good will among men.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 1955

ALMIGHTY GOD, in this moment of worship and quiet waiting upon Thee, may we seek and sense the guiding presence and sustaining power of Thy divine spirit.

Inspire us with a resolute determination to consider and support fearlessly those policies and actions which we honestly believe are well pleasing unto Thee.

Help us to keep in high visibility the glorious assurance that being girded with the shield of faith and the breastplate of righteousness we shall be able to defend ourselves against all the forces of evil.

Hear us in the name of the Captain of our Salvation. Amen.

MONDAY, JANUARY 31, 1955

O THOU WHO ART THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE, Thou knowest how desperately we need Thee as we seek to be equal to the issues and the tragic necessities of our time.

We penitently confess that our plans and hopes for peace among men and nations have not always included a strong faith in Thee and in the vitality of the moral and spiritual resources.

Grant that in these days of crisis and challenge we may be aware of the weakness of our own finite wisdom and the futility of relying upon material strength.

Inspire us daily with a clear vision of the greatness and nearness of our blessed Lord as we strive to bring to fulfillment and fruition the nobler instincts, the fondest hopes, and the divine possibilities of all mankind.

In His name we offer our prayers. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1955

ALMIGHTY GOD, the source and inspiration of every noble impulse and good deed, we are again turning unto Thee in the sacred attitude of prayer that we may be renewed in faith, hope, and love, and receive the interpreting and guiding light of Thy divine spirit for all our problems.

Forgive our many sins and purify our hearts that, unfettered by sinful and unworthy thoughts and desires, we may be wise to know Thy truth and strong and courageous for the difficult tasks that await us.

May we never surrender and abdicate the rights and duties of moral criticism, righteous indignation and fearless resistance when evil forces are striving to further their own selfish interests and rob mankind of its freedom.

Help us with all the wisdom and strength at our command to build a social order which is spiritually great and that recognizes its supreme duty to obey Thy holy will and bring peace and good will among men and nations.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1955

O THOU WHO ALONE canst supply our temporal needs and satisfy our timeless longings, may we daily commit ourselves gladly and unreservedly to Thy kind and loving providence and find the secret of courage, joy, and hope.

Give us the glad assurance that Thy grace is sufficient and that Thou art willing and able to grant our requests and do for us exceeding above all that we can ask or think.

May our vision of peace on earth and the victory of righteousness be so glorious and wonderful that all our energies and capacities shall be pledged and dedicated to make it a blessed reality.

To Thy name, through Christ Jesus, our Lord, we ascribe all the praise. Amen.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1955

ETERNAL GOD, OUR FATHER, in these strange and troublous days, wilt Thou be especially favorable unto our President, our Speaker, and all the Members of Congress, granting them insight and understanding, wisdom and guidance.

Inspire them with a high sense of duty and a fearless determination to follow the ways of peace and righteousness, and do that which is well pleasing unto Thee.

May the kind of civilization we are longing and laboring for be one that has in it the Christlike spirit of justice and kindness, of brotherhood and love.

To Thy name we ascribe all the praise. Amen.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1955

ALMIGHTY GOD, may we be very conscious of the clear and unmistakable leading of Thy spirit, as, in these perilous days, we are considering how best to defend our freedom and maintain the sanctity and safety of our Republic.

Grant that in the midst of all of life's bewildering problems we may be numbered among those who are working zealously and waiting patiently and hopefully for the dawning of a new and better day.

We pray that, when the dark moods of fear and anxiety haunt us and disturb our peace, we may encourage ourselves and our fellow men with the assurance that Thou art our God, sovereign and supreme, transcendent and triumphant.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1955

GOD OF ALL GRACE, as we again unite our hearts in the fellowship of prayer, may we be eager and willing to make the great adventure of trying sincerely to become the kind of men and women Thou wouldst have us be.

Wilt Thou give us the wisdom and the desire to trust and cultivate and obey those noble intuitions and instincts which Thou hast planted within our souls.

Grant that we may have more of the spirit of our blessed Lord, whose beauty of character haunts us and makes us ashamed of ourselves and fills us, however, with lofty aspirations to be like unto Him.

May we daily continue to seek and follow the ways of righteousness and peace.

Hear us in the name of the Christ. Amen.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1955

O THOU WHO ART THE BENEFICENT AND MIGHTY RULER in all the affairs of our human order, may it be our supreme ambition to serve Thee daily in faithfulness and humility.

Grant that in times of national peril and crises we may know the way of how best to measure up to the overwhelming obligations of our high vocation.

Wilt Thou evoke within our minds and hearts those capacities and powers of insight and understanding which will enable us to find the right answers to our many needs.

May men and nations everywhere be baptized and inspired with a more generous and magnanimous spirit, for history and experience teach us so clearly that selfishness always defeats itself and self-seeking is self-losing.

Hear us in the name of our blessed Lord whose spirit of love and good will is the only bond of unity, amity, and fraternity among the members of the human family. Amen.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1955

O THOU WHO WERT THE GOD OF OUR FATHERS, and in whom they trusted and were not confounded, we rejoice that Thou hast been the God of all their succeeding generations.

May our own life, with its manifold trials and temptations, problems and perplexities, daily become richer and stronger in the realization of Thy presence, Thy peace, and Thy power.

Show us how we may add strength and beauty to our moral and spiritual stature and find in Thee those reinforcements and durable satisfactions which will enable us to carry on courageously and victoriously.

Grant that, in the sphere of our human relationships, we may never fail to manifest the virtues and the courtesies of considerateness and patience, of kindness and love.

Help us to hasten the dawning of that blessed day when men and nations everywhere shall rise out of the hatreds and enmities of the jungle and seek to live and labor together in the spirit of friendship and fraternity.

Hear us in the name of the Christ, the Prince of Peace. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 1955

ALMIGHTY GOD, we are again turning unto Thee with confidence and hope, for Thy thoughts and purposes concerning us are always those of kindness, of love, and of peace.

Grant that during this Lenten season we may take some time to yield ourselves to the discipline of silence and self-examination and listen more

attentively and eagerly to what Thou art saying unto us about our character and conduct, our tasks and responsibilities.

Help us to cultivate those capacities and powers of insight and understanding which will enable us to see our problems and difficulties in their right perspective.

Enlarge and enrich our minds and hearts with faith and trust and may we surrender our wills and desires in glad obedience to the infallible guidance of Thy divine spirit.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 1955

God of all goodness, we thank Thee for this beautiful day bringing unto us many opportunities to do good and to serve Thee and our fellow men.

May it be a day when we shall be richly blessed with new experiences of Thy presence and power, for we are conscious of our helplessness and insufficiency.

Grant that, in our programs of legislation, we may not only have a clear vision of what is valuable and useful but above all of that which is vital and essential.

Help us daily to grow and gain in vital and victorious living, and may we be inspired and sustained by that faith which will enable us to meet every moral issue without compromise or evasion.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 7, 1955

Almighty God, the sovereign ruler of the universe, Thy wise and beneficent laws are the inspiration and foundation of every just and righteous human law.

Grant that the laws, which are made and adopted here in this Chamber by the legislative branch of our Government, may always be in accord with the plan and pattern of Thy divine law.

May we daily be inspired with a lofty sense of respect and reverence for the sacred office of the Chief Executive of these United States.

We beseech Thee that our President, our Speaker, and all who are engaged in the high vocation of statecraft may be richly endowed with special gifts of wisdom and understanding and leadership.

May the citizens of our beloved country be great in loyalty and obedience to law, in righteousness and in peace and may our national strength and resources be used for the good of mankind.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 1955

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, source of wisdom and power, we are daily beseeching Thee to direct and prosper us in our programs of legislation.

Deepen within us a sense of our responsibility to protect and promote the safety, the honor, and welfare of our beloved country and all freedom-loving people.

Wilt Thou be especially favorable unto our ambassadors and representatives who have been placed in positions of counsel and diplomacy.

May they carry on their negotiations with the leaders of other nations so wisely and faithfully that peace and concord shall be established and maintained.

Inspire the Members of Congress and all our citizens with the spirit of patience and self-restraint and may we seek to excel in the practice of friendship and fraternity, of good will and love.

Grant that our faith in Thy divine justice and righteousness may never become eclipsed by fear for Thou canst crush the mightiest forces of evil and bring to naught the most subtle devices and designs of our enemies.

Hear us in the name of the Captain of our Salvation. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 14, 1955

ALMIGHTY GOD, as we enter upon this new week, wilt Thou inspire us with sincere longings and desires to be governed and guided by Thy divine spirit in all our deliberations and decisions.

Grant that when we face hard tasks and the burdens and responsibilities of life press heavily upon us we may have an undimmed vision of Thy strength and sympathy and a deepening experience of Thy nearness and companionship.

We beseech Thee that all the Members of the Congress may earnestly strive to do Thy will for in the doing of Thy will is our peace.

May we daily seek to be partners with Thee in bringing in that blessed time when men everywhere, in obedience to Thy holy will, shall do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with the Lord, their God.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 1955

ALMIGHTY AND EVER-BLESSED GOD, in these days that try men's souls, may we be numbered among the courageous and stout-hearted builders of the kingdom of righteousness and peace.

We beseech Thee to banish from our minds and hearts all feelings of fear and anxiety and lift us by Thy grace to the higher levels of faith and fortitude.

God forbid that we should ever surrender to a mood of defeatism or fatalism as we struggle to hold back the forces of evil that are endeavoring to block and barricade the way by which mankind may enter into its heritage of freedom and justice.

May we be a Nation whose hopes are fixed and founded eternally upon the solid and impregnable rock of Thy divine sovereignty.

Hear us in the name of the Captain of our Salvation. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 1955

ETERNAL GOD, our Father, whose thoughts concerning us are always those of love and peace, we rejoice that daily we are living under the canopy and shelter of Thy divine grace.

Grant that in this moment of quietness our minds and hearts may be filled with the spirit of penitence and humility, of gladness and gratitude, of faith and hope.

Help us to give ourselves unreservedly to the guidance of Thy Spirit and may every thought of our minds be brought into a glad obedience to the way of our Master.

May we be one in our longings and search to know Thy will for our generation and one in our aspirations and endeavors to obey Thy will with courage and faithfulness.

Inspire our character and conduct with the holiness and heroism, the consecration and dedication of our blessed Lord, in whose name we pray and bring our petitions. Amen.

FRIDAY, MARCH 18, 1955

MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, may we accept this new day as a great and glorious gift; a chance and opportunity for heroic endeavor and noble service; a call and challenge to build a social order that has in it the virtues of love and good will and the witness to a kinder and more magnanimous spirit.

We rejoice that, as we turn our thoughts toward Thee in the attitude of prayer, there comes into our hearts a sense of peace and power; the problems of life become less difficult to face and its burdens easier to bear.

Wilt Thou then constrain us to make a more fervent trial of the privilege of prayer and help us to believe that if we pray in ordinary days we will know how to pray with conquering power when the days of crisis and adversity come upon us.

Grant unto us an ever-enlarging vision of Thy greatness and goodness, for we humbly confess that we are frequently haunted by doubts and are tempted to become discouraged because the way is dim, the road is rough, and weather so stormy.

Hear us in the name of the Christ who is our refuge and strength. Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 1955

O THOU INFINITE AND SUPREME BEING, who art the wisest of all counselors and the nearest of all companions, we humbly worship and adore Thee as our God and Father.

Grant that we may count it as our noblest obligation and highest privilege to obey Thy holy will and walk in Thy ways.

Help us to sense Thy presence in this Chamber and inspire us with the blessed assurance that Thou art willing and able to give us wisdom and understanding as we plan and labor for the welfare of our country and all mankind.

May we never be self-centered or indifferent to the needs of suffering and struggling humanity.

Make us eager to participate in the glorious task and adventure of leading men and nations out of bondage into freedom, out of darkness into light, out of sorrow into joy, and out of despair into hope.

Hear us in the name of the Christ, who went about doing good. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 21, 1955

O THOU, WHO ART FOUND BY ALL who sincerely seek Thee and known by those who love Thee and seen by all whose hearts are pure, may we now be numbered among the seekers and finders of God.

We penitently confess that we frequently enter upon a new day with many doubts and fears, for the future at times seems to be so dark and full of mystery.

Grant that when we are disquieted and disturbed by evil tidings may our restless spirits find their strength and refuge in Thee.

May we have within us Thy peace which passeth all understanding, which the world cannot give or take away, and help us to believe that in Thine own good time there shall be peace on earth and good will among men.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 1955

ALMIGHTY GOD, we are daily coming unto Thee in humility and penitence, compelled by many needs which Thou alone canst supply.

Give us a more vivid sense of Thy guiding spirit as we seek to find the right solution to the difficult problems of human relationships.

Grant that in all our endeavor to apply the principles of righteousness and justice we may have a faith that never wavers and a courage that never falters.

Help us to place our confidence in the glorious promise that Thou wilt keep us in perfect peace when our minds are stayed on Thee, and that no needed blessing will ever be withheld from us if we walk uprightly.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 28, 1955

ALMIGHTY GOD, we beseech Thee to look upon us with divine favor and inspire us with fidelity and fortitude as we enter upon the duties and tasks of this week.

Daily we need Thy guiding and sustaining presence and power, for we are challenged by responsibilities which are far beyond all finite wisdom and strength.

Help us to affirm with increasing courage and confidence our faith in Thee and in the ultimate triumph of righteousness and justice for Thou hast placed us in a moral universe.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 1955

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, we rejoice that Thou art always accessible and available unto us when we come unto Thee in humility and with a penitent and contrite heart.

Help us to face the tasks and responsibilities of this day with the spirit of adventure and hope. Make us more impervious to those devastating moods of fear and worry which so frequently assail us and play havoc with our peace of mind.

We are daily praying that the life of our Republic may be more firmly rooted in the religious ideals and principles of the Founding Fathers who took God into account and sought to respect and obey His divine law.

Grant that we may also continue to pray and labor for the blessedness of all mankind, for our human race is one in origin and destiny and must be one in a great fellowship of sympathy and service and of brotherhood and good will.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 1955

O THOU GOD OF ALL MAJESTY AND MERCY, whose eternal glory and goodness are manifested unto us in the beauty and splendor of the spring season, together we render unto Thee the tribute of praise and thanksgiving.

Grant that in these days of crisis and confusion we may spend more time in waiting upon Thee, seeking divine guidance, and yielding ourselves in renewed consecration to the glorious task of establishing peace on earth and good will among men.

We pray that our beloved country may be worthy of being used by Thee in giving moral and spiritual leadership to the great enterprise of building a world order that has in it the brotherly spirit.

May we never lose faith in the possibility of bringing in that blessed day of peace, for the Lord of hosts is with us and the God of righteousness is our refuge and strength.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

MONDAY, APRIL 4, 1955

GOD OF ALL LOVE AND GOODNESS, we have entered upon Holy Week commemorating days in the life of our blessed Lord, whose sacred significance we are contemplating with a humble spirit and a contrite heart.

May our thoughts continue to go out toward Thee in praise and in gratitude for the King of Kings who, on Palm Sunday, proclaimed His divine sovereignty over the spirit of man.

Grant that we may bow in penitence as we seek to comprehend the love of the great High Priest who, on Good Friday, laid upon the altar the acceptable sacrifice of His own life for the salvation of the world.

Help us on Easter Sunday to rejoice and appropriate by faith that glorious redemption whereof Thou hast given us assurance by raising Him from the dead and daily may we rise with Him into newness of life.

To Thy name we ascribe all the glory. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 1955

ALMIGHTY GOD, we are coming unto Thee in the sacred attitude of prayer with hearts full of praise and gratitude, for Thou hast been our ever-present help and everlasting hope in all our yesterdays.

We are facing new days challenging us with many needs, but we are confident that those needs will be far outnumbered by the abundance of Thy grace and mercies.

May we daily yield our life humbly and gladly to the inspiration and counsel of Thy divine spirit, to be touched to nobler issues and to be used in the service of Thy holy will.

Grant that our minds may be filled with eager and earnest desires to do good unto all mankind in its longings and struggles to find the way of blessedness and peace.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

MONDAY, APRIL 18, 1955

ALMIGHTY GOD, we thank Thee for Thy kind and beneficial providence which is our shield in the stillness of the night and our strength for the duties and responsibilities of each new day.

Grant that nothing may ever disturb or destroy our faith in Thy greatness and righteousness as we seek to bring to fulfillment our aspirations and longings for world peace.

Inspire us with moral and spiritual stamina and courage in our dedication to the arduous task of conquering the forces of evil which would impede us in the struggle to release the hidden splendor of humanity.

May our own personal life be more firmly rooted in those lofty ideals and principles which Thou has ordained and which alone will enable us to remain strong and steadfast in these days of crisis and confusion.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 1955

INFINITE AND ETERNAL GOD, humbly and penitently we are coming unto Thee in the fellowship of prayer, beseeching Thee that, in the work of this day, we may be blessed with clear judgment and wise decision.

May our minds and hearts always be sensitive and responsive to the guidance of Thy spirit and be inspired with a radiant vision of the conquering power of truth and righteousness.

Sustain us in all our struggles to preserve and perpetuate those blessings of freedom and democracy which our forefathers found so hard to win and which we are now finding so difficult to hold.

Grant that our President, our Speaker, and all who are engaged in the business of statecraft may be courageous in spirit and strong in faith as they strive to lead and lift humanity out of the lowlands of darkness and despair into the loftier altitude of amity and peace.

Hear us in the name of our blessed Lord. Amen.

MONDAY, APRIL 25, 1955

O THOU WHO ART THE INSPIRATION of all that makes life noble and worthwhile, wilt Thou now kindle within our minds a clear vision of Thy divine will, for in the doing of Thy will is our peace.

Strengthen us daily with a deeper sense of those spiritual resources which will enable us to safeguard our heritage of freedom and share it with all mankind.

May we be numbered among those who are not afraid of evil tidings but whose hearts are always strong and steadfast, trusting in the Lord.

Show us how we may hasten the dawning of that glorious day when our hopes and longings for peace on earth and good will among men shall be a blessed reality.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 1955

ALMIGHTY AND EVER-BLESSED GOD, may the legislation which is proposed and enacted by the Congress always redound to Thy glory and bring blessedness to our Republic and humanity everywhere.

Grant that our beloved country may have men and women at the helm of the Ship of State who are not steering her by the rush candles of expediency and self-interest but by the eternal stars of lofty idealism.

Show us how we may gain the mastery over our fears and may our hearts be cheered and sustained by the assurance that righteousness shall prevail.

Help us to bring in that day of prediction when men and nations shall yield themselves in glad obedience to the mind and spirit of our blessed Lord.

Hear us in the name of the great Captain of our salvation. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 2, 1955

O THOU WHO ART THE GOD AND FATHER OF ALL MANKIND, may we begin this new day with an earnest desire to be loyal coworkers with Thee and with one another in the great enterprise of building the kingdom of peace and good will.

Strengthen and encourage us in our endeavors to penetrate and pierce the world's darkness and shadows with the mind and spirit of the lowly Man of Galilee and bring to light its hidden moral and spiritual treasures.

May we be willing and able to break through and break down all the barriers of prejudice and selfishness which keep men and nations from brotherhood and a true understanding and valuation of the worth and dignity of every member of the human family.

Inspire us to make adventures of friendship and may we always try to see the best in others, to believe in it, and to trust it.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 1955

O THOU GOD OF ALL MERCY AND PARDONING GRACE, may our prayer at the morning hour of this day be one of contrition and of confession of our many sins, our faults, and our failures.

We penitently confess that we are frequently more concerned about coming to Thee for help in a situation that is too much for us and badly wrong than we are for holding fellowship with Thee and proclaiming Thy glory.

We beseech Thee that our spiritual revival and resurgence of faith and return to Thee may not be because we are afraid and at our wits' end, but may it be because we have been inspired by a deeper love for Thee and a nobler appreciation of Thy greatness and goodness.

Grant that our longings and prayers for universal peace and an end of war may not only be due to our hatred of bloodshed and suffering and destruction of property and disturbance of business, but, above all, may it be because we feel the tragedy of spirit that is unbrotherly and un-Christlike and contrary to Thy divine love and righteousness.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 5, 1955

ALMIGHTY GOD, we are again coming unto Thee in the fellowship of prayer, we in our need of a greater and more courageous faith in Thy divine presence and power.

May we feel that there is a real and vital connection between our fortitude in the times of difficulties and the faith we carry in our hearts.

Help us to believe that new capacities and energies for victorious and joyous living will be awakened within us if we only have a stronger faith.

Grant that in each day we may have a larger experience of that faith in God and man and the triumph of righteousness which was regnant in the life of our blessed Lord.

Hear us in His name. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 9, 1955

O THOU WHO ART THE GREAT SOURCE OF LIFE AND LIGHT and always seeking to direct and win us to the nobler and more magnanimous ways of living, may our minds and hearts this day be radiant and vibrant with a sense of Thy peace and power.

Grant that in all the perplexing decisions and hard choices of life we may hear and heed Thy voice saying unto us, "This is the way, walk ye therein," for Thy ways are the ways of pleasantness and Thy paths are the paths of peace.

Show us how we may be channels of inspiration and instruments of help and hope in lifting men out of darkness into the glorious liberty of the sons of God.

May we come to the close of each day having gained a richer experience of Thy presence, a surer mastery of ourselves, and a deeper and more healing sympathy with struggling humanity.

In Christ's name we offer our prayer. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 10, 1955

ALMIGHTY AND EVER-BLESSED GOD, we are daily praying that the hearts of men everywhere may be kindled with a new spirit and a stronger desire for a social order wherein dwelleth justice and righteousness, peace and good will.

Help us to realize that we cannot build a nobler civilization except by putting into it a larger measure of the spirit of friendship and fraternity.

Grant that in the great task of solving the difficult problems of human relationships there may be more of the community and cooperative spirit, the spirit of tolerance and forbearance, the spirit of sympathy and kindly judgment.

May all the members of the human family be inspired and controlled by the spirit of love which alone can bring them together and hold them together, bridging their differences and healing their dissensions.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 1955

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, at the noon hour of this new day, we are turning our thoughts toward Thee in thanksgiving, for Thou art daily blessing us so abundantly.

We humbly confess that we are frequently baffled and perplexed and even frightened when we think of the tremendous amount of physical power and energy which now belongs to our modern world.

Grant that the spirit of man may not become haughty and reckless and supercilious but may it be endowed with adequate moral and spiritual controls.

Wilt Thou give unto man more of the spirit of self-discipline and self-mastery, helping him to keep in subjection all thoughts which have in them any feelings of revenge and any implications and intentions of evil toward others.

Show us how we may direct and channel all these God-given powers and energies toward the great beneficent goals and purposes and for the welfare of humanity and the glory of Thy great and holy name.

Hear us for the sake of our blessed Lord. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 12, 1955

ALMIGHTY GOD, our Creator and gracious benefactor, in whom we live and move and have our being, inspire us to enter upon each new day with a greater reverence for life and a loftier appreciation of its priceless value and glorious purpose.

Show us how we may carry courageously all those burdens and responsibilities, which at times weigh so heavily upon us, changing them into inspirations and incentives for nobler living.

Grant that the impression and impact which we are consciously or unconsciously making upon the life of our fellow men may always be for good, enabling them to find new springs of joy and new currents of hope.

May we ever live as in Thy sight and for Thy glory and at last save us in Christ's name. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 16, 1955

O THOU WHO ART THE INSPIRATION of all sincere and earnest prayers and their only answer, help us to believe and know that the secret of a happy and victorious life is to be found in a mind and heart inhabited and controlled by Thy Spirit.

May we begin this new week with the glad assurance that what we need more than anything else in the strain and stress of life, both for our peace and power, is Thy divine presence and guidance.

Inspire us with the certainty that there are no crises we cannot face, no temptations we cannot master, no problems we cannot solve, no wrongs

we cannot set right, and no victories for righteousness and justice we cannot win when Thou art our companion and counselor.

Grant that we may never become disheartened and discouraged as we continue to set ourselves to the difficult task of building a nobler civilization and seek to help all mankind achieve the highest and happiest kind of life.

Hear us in the name of our blessed Lord. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 17, 1955

ALMIGHTY GOD, in the quiet of this noon hour, we are centering our thoughts upon the amazing greatness and grandeur of the Prince of Peace in whom we find our noblest incentives for right living and heroic service.

Grant that our own life may bear clear and unmistakable testimony that we are seeking to emulate and incarnate his spirit of love and good will and striving to deliver humanity out of the bondage of rancor and hatred and lead it into the paths of brotherly kindness.

Help us to feel that the hour has struck when the moral and spiritual forces must accept the leadership in dispelling from the hearts of men and nations all bitterness and prejudice.

Take away from us the moods of discouragement and defeatism, and may we believe that our longing for peace on earth is not merely an idle dream and a vague impossibility but a glorious, divine inspiration which someday will be a blessed reality.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18, 1955

ETERNAL GOD, OUR FATHER, in whose divine wisdom, righteousness, and love we trust, we beseech Thee to lead us by Thy Spirit in our halting and stumbling quest for the right solution to our many difficult national and international problems.

We humbly confess that, in the tumult and confusion of our time, we do not know where and how to find that solution. Our diplomats and statesmen assemble in conclave and counsel but there seems to be so little of real concord.

Help us to see that perhaps the rancor and misunderstanding, the misconceptions and the failure to find that right and satisfactory solution may be because we talk so much and take so little time for prayer to listen to Thy voice of gentle stillness.

May we continue to be full of hope and courage, and grant that the leaders of all the nations may have in their minds and hearts the spirit of good will and consideration, of sympathetic patience and interpretive understanding as they sincerely strive for peace on earth.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

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THURSDAY, MAY 19, 1955

ALMIGHTY GOD, unto whom we are daily compelled and constrained to bring our finite minds and fallible judgments, and our sinful hearts to be pardoned and purified, may we enter upon the tasks of the day with confidence and courage.

Grant that in this time of darkness and shadows, when we wish that we might be able to see more clearly the events impending, may we surrender ourselves solely and supremely to the leading of Thy Spirit.

Inspire us with new ventures of faith and larger vistas of outlook as we labor together to break down the barriers that divide mankind and seek to build not only a world that is safe for democracy but a democracy that is safe for the world.

Help us to believe in the coming of a new social order, made nobler by its suffering and sacrifice and wiser by its folly and stupidity.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 23, 1955

O THOU WHO HAST BEEN OUR HELP in all our yesterdays and art our strength for today and our hope for tomorrow, may we now be inspired by Thy spirit and endowed with insight to know Thy holy will and courage to obey it.

We beseech Thee to lift us out of all doubting and disbelieving tempers and moods of mind and heart lest we become too willful and rebellious to follow Thy leading and too gloomy to hope for nobler and better ways of living.

May we yield ourselves unreservedly to the guidance of Thy infallible spirit and daily come nearer to what Thou wouldst have us be and do.

Grant that humanity may be blessed with a new nativity of faith in Thee, and with a love that seeketh not its own and a hope that will become the authentic basis and sure foundation of a higher idealism and a more heroic endeavor to build a civilization in which there is peace.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 24, 1955

ALMIGHTY GOD, in this moment of prayer we are coming unto Thee with glad and grateful hearts, for Thou art mindful of all our needs.

We rejoice that Thou hast given unto our generation the wisdom to discover the wonders and mysteries of Thy handiwork.

Grant that men and nations may never use its power for cruel and unworthy purposes but only for Thy glory and the good of all mankind.

Show us how we may strengthen the ties of brotherhood, bringing the members of the human family into a cooperative and invincible fellowship.

Inspire men everywhere to live together in peace and good will, united in their aspirations and endeavors to build a world which has in it a love that is as inclusive as the love of God.

In Christ's name we offer our petition. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 1955

GOD OF ALL GRACE AND GOODNESS, grant that now, through the way of prayer, our souls may ascend the mountain peak of a larger outlook and enter the zone of lofty vision and understanding.

We humbly acknowledge that humanity, with its bruised and broken heart, its gropings and confused searchings, its weakness and weariness, its fears and failures, has no one to go to except unto Thee.

Inspire us to stand in the noble tradition of those who never lost heart or hope when twilight and darkness descended upon them but held on to the promises and prophecies of a new and better day with unwearied patience and increasing tenacity.

Help us to face life with gladness and good cheer, saying to ourselves, "I am not afraid of tomorrow for I have seen yesterday and I love today."

Hear us in the name of the Captain of our salvation. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 26, 1955

ALMIGHTY AND EVER-BLESSED GOD, as we humbly and reverently engage in this sacred act of worship, wilt Thou answer our highest aspirations with Thy divine inspiration.

Grant that daily we may grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, whom to know is life eternal.

May we never take a neutral or negative attitude toward life's lofty moral and spiritual principles, but show us how we may live affirmatively and helpfully, faithfully, and hopefully.

Help us to hasten that glorious day when the forces of evil shall be transformed into forces of light and peace and all for the glory of God and the good of humanity.

Hear us in the name of our blessed Lord. Amen.

FRIDAY, MAY 27, 1955

GOD OF ALL MAJESTY AND MERCY, wilt Thou now kindle within our minds and hearts a spirit that is like unto Thy spirit, keeping them sensitive and responsive to life's noblest insights and instincts.

Grant that we may feel the urge and appeal of Thy voice calling us to always put ourselves on the side of truth and righteousness, of faith and hope.

Inspire us to yield our wills to the sovereignty of Thy divine will, not, however, in a spirit of stoical resignation and sullen submission, but gladly and gratefully.

May Thy presence and power in our life be made manifest in nobility of character and conduct and in sacrificial service for all mankind.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 31, 1955

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, grant that in these perilous days with their ever-shifting human scenes, we may find our peace and security in Thee and those laws and principles which we know are authentic and abiding.

May we give ourselves gladly and unreservedly to the guidance of Thy spirit, knowing that Thy ways are the ways of pleasantness and peace.

Inspire us with courage to believe that the forces of evil, however gigantic and terrible, are not too great for Thy divine power to defeat and destroy.

Grant that we may place all our confidence in the Christ, that friend who will never fail or forsake us, but who is the friend sticking closer than a brother.

Hear us in His name, who is ever the same, yesterday, today, and forever. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 1955

ALMIGHTY GOD, humbly and reverently we are again turning unto Thee in prayer, lifting up our hearts in adoration and thanksgiving, in confession and supplication.

Grant that our President, our Speaker and all the Members of the Congress who are engaged in the high vocation of statecraft may be wise and obedient servants of Thy holy will.

May they seek to do Thy will faithfully and courageously without fear or favor and regardless of circumstances or consequences.

Inspire us with a deep and sincere longing to always bring our own human will into oneness with Thy divine will for "our wills are ours, we know not how, our wills are ours, to make them Thine."

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 1955

O THOU GOD OF ALL GRACE AND GOODNESS, whose kind and beneficent providence fills each new day with blessedness, makes us more appreciative and worthy of Thy continuing love and care.

Help us to sense the sanctity and sacredness of the duties which confront us and may we perform them faithfully and as in Thy sight and for Thy glory.

May we have a clear vision of that blessed time when the nations of the earth shall yield themselves in a glad and willing obedience to Thy divine sovereignty.

Show us how we may strengthen our own faith in the ultimate triumph of righteousness and justice when men everywhere shall follow the ways of the Prince of Peace.

Hear us in His name. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 6, 1955

O THOU WHO ART THE SOURCE AND INSPIRATION of every noble desire, may we now be drawn together in unity of spirit to make the doing of Thy will the goal of all our aspirations.

We humbly confess that our ambitions and aspirations are frequently so low vaulted and primarily concerned with the temporal and transient.

Help us to believe that no aspiration, cherished by our minds and hearts, is too high and too holy to be fulfilled by Thy grace and power.

Wilt Thou illumine our thoughts, purify our purposes, strengthen our languishing wills and may we walk circumspectly, live confidently, and labor faithfully and without fear all our days.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 7, 1955

ALMIGHTY GOD, in our prayer of intercession, at the noon hour, we are bringing to Thy throne of grace and mercy all who have grievous trials and tribulations, and are bearing heavy burdens and sorrows from which none amongst us is entirely free.

God forbid that we should sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for our fellow men who are finding life so confused and complex in its demands and upon whose trembling lips there are broken cries which Thou alone canst hear and answer.

Grant that Thy needy children everywhere may be given strength and courage to carry on and may their hearts be sustained by Thy divine fellowship and consolation.

Inspire us with the glad assurance that someday Thy kingdom of righteousness and peace will be established upon this earth and may we seek to have a large part in making life less difficult for struggling humanity.

In Christ's name we bring our petitions. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 9, 1955

ETERNAL GOD, OUR FATHER, whose thoughts toward us are always those of love and peace, wilt Thou give us this day a calm and courageous spirit.

We penitently confess that our minds and hearts are so often disquieted and distracted with thoughts of doubt and fear.

Help us to believe that we never go through the hours of any day alone and unattended and that Thou wilt keep us in perfect peace if our minds are stayed on Thee.

May this faith daily become a blessed reality, for we know that without it life loses its strength and its song.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 13, 1955

ALMIGHTY GOD, whose bountiful grace is always available, we rejoice that Thou art ever waiting to be welcomed by our inner life to make it the sanctuary of Thy presence.

May our minds and hearts be aglow with the enthusiasm of high ideals and radiant with that peace which comes from responding wholeheartedly to the promptings and persuasion of Thy spirit.

Show us how, in the midst of life's tumult and confusion, we may lay hold of the great sources of spiritual power and consolation and carry on faithfully and without fear.

Grant that we may have divine counsel and guidance in the discharge of all our duties and responsibilities, beginning each day with prayer, "What wilt Thou have me be and do?"

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 1955

O THOU GOD OF OUR FATHERS and all their succeeding generations, we thank Thee for the many special days in the calendar of our national life which stir our minds with pride and patriotism.

Grant that this day, which we call Flag Day, may inspire and kindle within our hearts a greater loyalty and love for our country for Thou hast given us a blessed and wonderful heritage and hast not dealt so bountifully with any nation.

Give us a deeper appreciation and a clearer understanding of our duties and responsibilities as citizens. May we strive to cultivate and elevate the moral and spiritual character of our Republic and do all within our power to preserve and perpetuate its freedom and its free institutions.

Help us to feel that the most heinous of all desecrations and sacrileges is that of being indifferent to the sacrifices made by others that we might live in freedom under the Stars and Stripes.

Wherever the flag is carried may it be the emblem of justice and righteousness and the glorious herald proclaiming the coming of a new day of liberty for all mankind.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 1955

ALMIGHTY GOD, as we again assemble to engage in the business of statecraft, may our minds become the chambers of pure motives and high resolves and, at the close of the day, the dwelling place of peace and happy memories.

Grant that daily we may be sustained by a great faith which knows how to conquer all paralyzing doubts and petty fears.

Inspire us with a radiant hope as we strive to be partners with Thee and with one another in the glorious enterprise of building the kingdom of peace and righteousness upon the earth.

Direct us now in our deliberations and decisions and may the words of our mouth and the meditations of our heart always be acceptable in Thy sight, O Lord, our strength and our Redeemer.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 1955

ALMIGHTY GOD, may our morning prayer be one of praise and adoration, for Thy greatness is unsearchable and Thy faithfulness reaches unto the clouds.

We extoll Thee for Thou art gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and of great mercy, righteous in all Thy ways and holy in all Thy works.

Thy kindgom is an everlasting kingdom and Thy dominion endureth throughout all generations.

Grant that daily we may be mindful of Thy divine providence and of Thy love which will not fail and never let us go.

Help us to believe that Thou wilt fulfill the desires of all who fear Thy name and not withhold from us any needed blessing if we do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with the Lord.

Hear us in the name of the Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 1955

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, inspire us now with a more vivid sense of Thyself, in whom alone we may find strength for today and hope for tomorrow.

Grant that we may also have a conscience that is more sensitive and alert to the fact of human solidarity and the reality that mankind is one in origin and destiny.

Make us eager to minister to all the members of the human family in their struggles and longings for the blessings of health and happiness.

May it be the goal of all our aspirations to hasten the coming of that glorious day when there shall be peace on earth and good will among men.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 1955

ALMIGHTY GOD, may this moment of the upward look toward Thee, in faith and aspiration, inspire us to reach out toward needed humanity in sympathy and service.

We humbly confess that we so frequently allow our upward look toward Thee to become eclipsed and distorted by feelings of doubt and self-suffering.

We likewise penitently acknowledge that again and again we limit and repress our outward reach by our selfish desires.

May we understand more clearly that we will only be blind leaders of the blind if we do not cultivate the upward look and that our life will fall into a narrow and dwarfing individualism and egoism if it does not reach out to all mankind.

Hear us in the name of our blessed Lord, who went about doing good. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 27, 1955

ALMIGHTY AND EVER-BLESSED GOD, we are lifting our hearts unto Thee in adoration and gratitude, for Thou art the source of our blessings, the answer to our problems, and the goal of all our aspirations.

Grant that in these troubled days, when there is so much tension and estrangement and sinister forces are trying to bring discord and division among the nations, we may know how to keep aglow the light of freedom and righteousness.

Help us to believe that Thou hast placed at our disposal the inexhaustible resources of Thy grace and that all things are working together for good if we seek to do Thy will, and all will be well when we are on Thy side.

Inspire us to hasten the coming of the time when there shall be peace on earth and good will among men.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 28, 1955

O THOU WHO ART THE GREAT COMPANION of our hearts and the counselor of our minds, Thy eternal truth is our light and Thy spirit of love the bond of unity among men and nations.

We penitently acknowledge that in these dark and perilous days the hope of establishing peace on earth seems at times so remote and unreal.

Help us to believe that there is no crisis we cannot face if our inner life is armored with Thy divine righteousness and controlled and guided by a desire to do Thy will.

Grant that our President, our Speaker, our Congress, and all who represent our beloved country in the field of international relations may be blessed with the art and the resources of statesmanship and diplomacy but above all with a faith that never wavers and a courage that never falters.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 30, 1955

ALMIGHTY GOD, whose divine spirit pervades and sustains the universe, may our life this day be hallowed and inspired with a sense of Thy presence and power.

Wilt Thou so expand and enlarge our minds and hearts that they may be big enough to comprehend more fully Thy love, Thy greatness and goodness.

May we feel Thy nearness for Thou knowest how desolate and lonely we are without Thee and that we are too frail to achieve the goals we dream about unless we have the assurance of Thy grace and strength.

Grant that when we come upon days that are overcast with sorrows, and burdened with cares, and doubts assail us, may be conquer them upon our knees in prayer, for in Thee our visions of victory find reality and fulfillment.

Hear us in the name of the Captain of our Salvation. Amen.

FRIDAY, JULY 1, 1955

ETERNAL GOD, OUR FATHER, in our prayer at this morning hour we would thank Thee for the independence of our beloved country and invoke the blessings of Thy grace and favor upon our democracy with its ideals and principles of freedom and fraternity.

Grant that we may have the faith and courage to believe that worldwide democracy is inevitable and Thy divinely ordained purpose for all mankind and that nothing can impede its progress and its triumph.

We beseech Thee that democracy here in these United States may always be of the very finest and noblest kind. May it be a democracy whose freedom is coordinated with discipline and spiritual vision and a lofty conception of the sanctity of law and order and the rights of others.

Help us daily to put forth a more heroic effort in behalf of peace and a social order wherein the happiness and welfare of all the members of the human family are our deepest concern.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

TUESDAY, JULY 5, 1955

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast guided our beloved country safely through many dangers and difficulties, may our hearts be filled with a greater faith in Thy divine providence.

Grant that the manifestation of Thy grace and goodness in the past may inspire us to dedicate ourselves anew to our Republic in the spirit of patriotism and fidelity.

Forgive us for ofttimes being indifferent and unresponsive to the needs and longings of others who are finding their struggles for health and happiness, and for a freer and fuller life, so burdensome and difficult.

Give us more of sympathy and understanding, of generosity and charity, and help us to close the chasms between the members of the human family, casting into those chasms our selfishness, our pride and prejudices, and changing them into beautiful highways where all shall walk together in brotherhood and good will.

Hear us as we daily remember in our prayers Thy servant, beseeching Thee to share Thy eternal wisdom with the doctors and nurses, enabling them to know just what to do for his recovery.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

THURSDAY, JULY 7, 1955

GOD OF MERCY AND GOODNESS, who art always so bountiful in Thy dealings with man, we rejoice that daily Thou dost bestow upon us and entrust us with innumerable blessings.

Help us to be worthy and appreciative, and may the abundance of Thy gracious and generous spirit make us more sensitive in our sympathies and more sincere in our good will toward all mankind.

We penitently confess that we are frequently very selfish and do so little to discharge the responsibility, which Thou dost enjoin upon us, of sharing our blessings with others.

Grant that we may seek to build a finer social order and do all within our power to minister to the needs of struggling humanity.

Hear us in the name of our blessed Lord who gave Himself for the life of the world. Amen.

MONDAY, JULY 11, 1955

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, who art worthy of all adoration and allegiance, may we enter upon this new week resolved and determined to surrender ourselves in courage and confidence to Thy holy will.

Thou alone canst enable us to meet victoriously the duties and demands which daily vex and baffle our minds for Thou art all wise and all powerful.

Grant that we may strive with every means and capacity at our command to build a nation that is obedient and responsive to Thy divine law.

Show us how the life of our Republic and the legislation which we are enacting may be touched and permeated with more of spiritual significance and fineness.

May we always seek to blend the lofty spirit of religion, the spirit of justice and righteousness with our politics, for in so doing our national life will be nobler and more fruitful for the welfare of humanity.

Hear us in the name of the Christ who rules men and nations with the scepter of love. Amen.

TUESDAY, JULY 12, 1955

ALMIGHTY GOD, whose divine love and grace can satisfy our mortal needs and our immortal longings, may we now come unto Thee with a humble spirit and a contrite heart.

Thou art high and holy but always willing to identify Thyself with the lowly and the sinful and to help us achieve a spirit that is akin to Thy spirit.

Grant that it may be our highest vocation to bring to fulfillment and fruition those capacities for strength and nobility of character with which we have been endowed.

May we daily realize how sacred and wonderful it is that we may yield ourselves to one who can fulfill that which has been ordained for us.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 13, 1955

ETERNAL AND EVER-BLESSED GOD, may Thy divine spirit daily dwell within us abundantly and triumphantly, transforming our inner self into a sanctuary of light, of joy, and peace.

Help us to surrender ourselves to Thy will and guiding spirit, and fill our hearts with that love which makes us loyal, and that faith which makes us courageous and unafraid.

Show us how we may hasten the coming of that blessed day of friendship and fraternity, and of peace on earth and good will among men.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

THURSDAY, JULY 14, 1955

ALMIGHTY GOD, may our life daily be illumined by Thy spirit and reflect the likeness of our blessed Lord, who was moved with compassion toward humanity and went about doing good.

We beseech Thee that our aspirations and ambitions may be large and magnanimous and always include the welfare and happiness of our fellow men.

Hear us in our prayer of intercession for the poor and needy, the sick and sorrowing, the lonely and discouraged, and all who are victims of hard and difficult circumstances.

Grant that, at the close of each day, we may be worthy of receiving the benediction which Thou dost bestow upon the faithful, the humble, the pure in heart, the merciful, the righteous, and the peacemakers.

In Christ's name we offer our prayer. Amen.

MONDAY, JULY 18, 1955

O THOU WHO ART THE GUIDING INTELLIGENCE in the life of men and nations, Thou knowest our deepest longings as rulers and leaders meet today in solemn conclave to find the right solution to the difficult problems of international relationships.

We are dependent upon Thee and earnestly beseech Thee that all who assemble in Geneva may be inspired with a new sense of the worth and dignity of human life, its origin and destiny, and its glorious capacities and possibilities.

May the power of Thy divine spirit guide them in promoting and preserving the great moral and spiritual virtues and values of love and mercy, of friendship and good will.

Grant that they may courageously choose the lofty ways of righteousness and justice and sincerely commit themselves to the great enterprise of giving confused and baffled mankind a more radiant vision and hope of peace on earth.

Hear us now as, in a moment of silence, we pray especially for our President and our Secretary of State.

To Thy name, through Christ Jesus, our Lord, we ascribe all the glory. Amen.

TUESDAY, JULY 19, 1955

ALMIGHTY GOD, daily we are drawn unto Thee by blessed memories of Thy goodness and by needs which Thou alone canst supply, but above all by Thy love, which will never let us go.

May our minds and hearts be filled with noble desires and pure aspirations and inspired to make Thy wiser will our own.

Grant that, as we go in and out among our fellow men, we may be the messengers of kindness and considerateness of generosity and good will.

Help us to cultivate a finer spirit of appreciation and understanding, of sympathy and service.

Show us how justice and righteousness may be organized and made effective in building a social order in which nations live together in unity and peace.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

THURSDAY, JULY 21, 1955

ALMIGHTY GOD, we gratefully acknowledge that Thou hast entrusted our beloved country with a unique and important mission in the arena of universal history and in the life of all mankind.

God forbid that we should be tempted to feel that America is primarily a land of economic and commercial opportunities and a place where the soul of man may find its highest expression in an epicurean way of life.

Grant that we may give ourselves to the lofty adventure of making our Nation a republic of God, and our democracy a kingdom of heaven, whose religious faith is that of the fatherhood of God and its practice the brotherhood of man.

Hear us now, as we again, in silent prayer, beseech Thee that our President and Secretary of State may be directed by Thy spirit in seeking to make a distinct contribution to the cause of peace and good will.

In the name of the Christ we offer our prayer. Amen.

MONDAY, JULY 24, 1955

O THOU LORD GOD OMNIPOTENT, grant that the nations of the earth, drawn together by common perils and common hopes for peace, may continue to extend to one another the overtures of friendship and good will.

Wilt Thou give us the grace to hold to our highest ideals with perseverance and increasing tenacity and never break faith with them or let them go.

May we have the courage to launch out into enterprises and adventures for peace which heretofore we have not attempted or dreamed of.

Help men everywhere to rise to new visions of understanding and cooperation and resolve to live together in a spirit of love and brotherhood.

Grant that when we succeed in bringing our aspirations to fulfillment we may not be proud but thankful and when we fail may be not become sullen and rebellious but may our failures inspire us to carry on in humility and patience.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, July 26, 1955

ALMIGHTY GOD, Thou knowest how greatly we need divine wisdom and strength in our desires and dreams to build a world which has in it peace and good will.

Show us how we may lift and lead bruised and broken humanity out of its sorrow and sufferings, out of its doubts into faith, and out of its fears into joy.

Grant that as citizens of this great Nation we may strive with all the ingenuity and capacity at our command to preserve its sovereignty and security. giving it our loyalty and allegiance.

May we have a spirit which bears witness to our kinship with the Prince of Peace.

Hear us in His name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JULY 28, 1955

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, may we this day follow Thy leading with stalwart and steadfast steps, confident that where Thou dost guide Thou wilt also provide.

Grant that the legislation, which is being enacted by the Congress, may always be touched with moral and spiritual mindedness and be a sincere endeavor to bring blessedness to all mankind.

We are daily praying that the nations of the earth may be brought together in stronger bonds of unity and may all that alienates them from one another be put away.

Show us how we may help to promote feelings of oneness and kinship among the members of the human family.

In Christ's name we offer our prayer. Amen.

FRIDAY, JULY 29, 1955

ALMIGHTY GOD, who art our refuge and strength and whose divine providence is ever 'round about us, we desire to begin, to continue, and to end this day with Thee.

May it be a day of new adventures and advances in faith and in friendship with Thee and with all mankind.

Grant that it may be the purpose of our minds and the passion of our hearts to harness all the forces of righteousness in the great spiritual task of building a better world.

We beseech Thee that the spirit of men everywhere may have in it a new dimension of understanding and good will and a new sense of responsibility for the welfare of humanity.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

SATURDAY, JULY 30, 1955

O THOU GOD OF ALL HOLINESS AND RIGHTEOUSNESS, Thou hast created and endowed us with moral sense and with capacities and powers to choose the right and to refuse the wrong.

Thou art always commanding us to cultivate these attributes and to keep them inviolate, but we penitently confess that we frequently fail and falter and are so very fickle in our faith and fortitude.

Grant that we may be honest and true with our nobler and better self which is continually calling and constraining us to seek first Thy kingdom of righteousness.

Help us to strive more earnestly to establish peace on earth and good will among all men.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 1955

ETERNAL AND EVER-BLESSED GOD, as we again come unto Thee in the fellowship of prayer, may we unite our hearts in the sacrament of adoration and thanksgiving.

May we always respond to Thy loving kindness and goodness in a spirit of fidelity and devotion.

Grant that our Speaker, our chosen Representatives, and all who have served our country in whatever capacity, during this session of the Congress, may receive the benediction of Thy praise.

We commend one another to Thy love and care and unto Him who is able to keep us in the paths of righteousness and to present us faultless before Thy presence, to the only wise God, our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 1955

O THOU GOD OF ALL OUR DAYS, may our hearts expand with gratitude for the many mercies which Thou hast bestowed upon us.

Wilt Thou continue to give us the glad assurance that no needed blessing wilt Thou ever withhold from us if we do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with the Lord.

We thank Thee for the high and holy privilege we have had of working together in the service of our God, our country, and humanity.

Grant that when we come to the closing hour of this session of the Congress we may receive the benediction of Thy grace, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

May the Lord bless us and keep us; may the Lord make His face to shine upon us and be gracious unto us; may the Lord lift upon us the light of His countenance and give us peace.

Amen.

EIGHTY-FOURTH CONGRESS

Second Session

TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 1956

ALMIGHTY GOD, in Thy loving care and wise control are the coming in and the going out of all our days and years.

May we now enter upon this 2d session of the 84th Congress with renewed faith and fortitude, ever mindful of Thy gracious providence and assured of Thy divine sovereignty.

We are not afraid of tomorrow for we have seen yesterday and we love today.

Thou art always regarding with favor those who come unto Thee with a humble spirit and a contrite heart.

We beseech Thee to bless with Thy grace and solicitude our President, our Speaker, our chosen Representatives, and all Government employees.

Grant unto them the guidance of Thy holy spirit and a deep and abiding sense of Thy presence as they seek to discharge faithfully their many arduous tasks and responsibilities.

May the anxious and troubled soul of our beloved country and all humanity be filled with the joy of the Prince of Peace in whose name we pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5, 1956

GOD OF WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING, Thou alone art the guiding intelligence and the supreme source of insight and inspiration when men assemble in their council chambers for deliberation and decision.

May all the legislation that shall be proposed and enacted by this session of Congress redound to Thy glory and help to bring to fulfillment our longings for peace on earth and good will among men.

Fill us with generous impulses and sympathetic attitudes toward one another and may we never become weary in seeking the well-being and welfare of all mankind.

Help us to live and labor together courageously and cheerfully, confident that nothing can ever impede the triumph of righteousness and justice and freedom.

Inspire our minds and hearts with the moral strength of humility and hope, of patience and perseverance and may all be done for the glory of God.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

MONDAY, JANUARY 9, 1956

ETERNAL GOD, OUR FATHER, by Thy grace we have entered upon a new week affording us many opportunities to share in the glorious task of preserving and perpetuating our freedoms.

Grant that the heart and hands of our Nation, which have always been brave and strong in times of war, may be even more courageous and stronger in building a temple of peace whose foundation can never be destroyed.

In all our adventures and endeavors may we not look for the trophies and tributes which our fellow men may bestow upon us, but inspire us to prove worthy of someday receiving the crown of righteousness and the diadem of Thy praise.

May the great patriotic motive, which shall animate the plans and purposes of the Members of Congress, be that of serving their generation according to Thy holy will.

In Christ's name we offer our prayer. Amen.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12, 1956

O THOU BLESSED LORD, as we again engage in a moment of prayer, wilt Thou make our souls the sanctuaries of Thy presence and Thy peace.

Lo, Thou art here and Thou art everywhere, waiting to be welcomed and trusted and seeking to inspire us with a nobler and more magnanimous spirit.

Grant that Thy holy and divine will may be resident and regnant in our minds and hearts, constraining us to walk the highways of honor and integrity, of goodness and helpfulness.

May our faith in Thee be manifested and fulfilled in faithfulness and our love for humanity reveal itself in deeds of kindness and friendship.

Hear us in the name of the Master who went about doing good. Amen.

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MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 1956

O THOU WHOSE BOUNTIFUL PROVIDENCE is everywhere and always available, help us daily to lay hold of those spiritual resources which are the secret of strength and peace.

Humbly we pray for the valor of a faith that will not falter, the joy of a hope that is patient, and the power of a love that will never fail.

Grant that as we take our way through the years and go in and out among our fellow men, our life may be rich in sympathy and fruitful in service.

May we be of one mind and heart with all who seek to know Thee, of one fellowship with those who love Thee, and of one purpose with all who are striving to do Thy will faithfully.

Hear us in the name of the Christ who, being Lord of all, was willing for our sakes to become the servant of all. Amen.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 1956

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast called us to be peacemakers, may all the citizens of our beloved country seek more earnestly during this year to make peace and good will among men their personal concern.

Help us to understand that it is not enough that a few sincere and high-minded men of church and state should assemble to plan for the peace of the world.

Grant that we may see that all our programs and efforts will depend ultimately for their realization and achievement upon a finer moral and spiritual life rising in the hearts of men everywhere.

Make us more confident that there are reserves and resources of divine strength on which we have not yet drawn and springs of splendor in human nature still to be explored and tapped.

God forbid that we should ever surrender to moods of apathy and despair, but may we have a clear vision of the dawning of that better day when a nobler spirit shall rule the mind of man and all nations shall follow the ways of reason and righteousness.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1956

O THOU LORD AND MASTER OF ALL MANKIND, whose incomparable life is the realized ideal of humanity and the supreme revelation of God, Almighty, we pray that daily our own life may come under the spell and sway of Thy spirit.

We penitently confess that our human spirit has so little in common with Thy divine spirit and that we are frequently so bewildered and confused, so faithless and faltering.

Thou knowest how desperately man needs Thy regenerating presence and power if our dreams and hopes of a better world are ever to become a blessed reality.

Grant that during this year we may accept more eagerly the overtures of Thy counsel and companionship, and venture out more courageously upon the nobler ways of life.

To Thy name we ascribe all the praise. Amen.

MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 1956

ALMIGHTY GOD, whose divine grace is inexhaustible in its fullness and invincible in its strength, may we leave behind all feelings of fret and fear, of doubt and discouragement as we enter upon the duties of this new week.

We humbly confess that we cannot meet the desperate needs of our time unless our minds and hearts are conscious of Thy nearness and power.

Grant that in all our efforts to solve our difficult problems we may have as our motive to bring glory to Thy great and holy name.

Hear us for the sake of the Captain of Our Salvation. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 1956

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, Thou art always willing and ready to hear and help all who come unto Thee with honest minds and humble hearts.

Make us eager to appropriate and worthy to receive the spiritual resources which Thou hast placed at our disposal.

Show us how we may be calm and courageous in a world that is shaken by storms and strife.

Inspire us with a faith that is faithful and brave enough to remain steadfast when the winds are contrary

May we daily rededicate ourselves to the task of safeguarding those principles of righteousness and justice which will hallow and dignify the life of all mankind.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

MONDAY, JANUARY 30, 1956

ETERNAL AND EVER-BLESSED GOD, daily Thou art challenging us with the noble task of seeking and striving for the spiritual unity of all mankind.

Show us how we may put forth a more heroic effort in behalf of building a social order of friendship and fraternity.

May the welfare and happiness of every member of the human family be our deep personal concern and may we be partners in establishing good will among men.

Grant that we may be inspired to give ourselves unreservedly to the glorious enterprise of world peace.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1956

ALMIGHTY GOD, together we confess our sins, together we seek Thy mercy, and together we beseech Thee to give us Thy pardoning and sustaining grace.

Grant that in these strange and troubled days we may hear and heed Thy voice, calling us to be courageous and of good cheer.

We pray that our English-speaking nations, drawn together by a common peril and a common ideal, may have leaders, statesmen, and diplomats who know how to bring peace and security to freedom-loving people everywhere.

May our President, our Speaker, and all our chosen Representatives have a clear vision of Thy divine will and be inspired with wisdom and understanding as they strive for the blessedness of all mankind.

Hear us in the name and spirit of the Christ whom we acclaim as the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. Amen.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1956

O THOU WHOM WE WORSHIP AND ADORE AS THE GOD of infallible wisdom, invincible strength and infinite love, show us how we may lay hold of those spiritual resources and reserves which will make us equal to all our needs and demands.

We humbly confess that we find it difficult to discern and know Thy will because of the blurrings and refractions of our poor human vision.

Grant that in the great business of statecraft, with its many arduous tasks and heavy responsibilities, we may be inspired with those sterling qualities of character which will keep us strong and steadfast.

May we be men and women of high resolve, noble aspirations, sound judgement, and bold initiative as we daily set our minds and hearts to the lofty vocation of serving our generation faithfully and effectively.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1956

ETERNAL GOD, OUR FATHER, Thou art of all friends the nearest, of all counselors the wisest, and of all helpers the ablest and most willing to minister unto our needs in times of crises and confusion.

We pray that Thy spirit may inspire us with an earnest and eager longing to contribute more generously and wholeheartedly to the welfare and peace of all mankind.

We thank Thee for the life and character of Thy servant, our colleague, who now dwells in eternal blessedness, forever with the Lord.

Thou hast opened unto him the gateway to the larger life and received him into Thy nearer presence.

Grant unto the sorrowing and lonely the consolations of Thy grace and may they yield themselves without murmur or complaint to that divine providence which is too wise to err and too kind to injure.

In Christ's name we offer our petitions. Amen.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1956

ALMIGHTY GOD, Thou art the inspiration of all the lofty ideals and principles by which we should live and the source of the strength and courage we need to make them real and regnant in our daily life.

Grant that we may be guided by Thy divine wisdom as we strive to make a worthy contribution to the cause of freedom and to the right solution of our many difficult national and international problems.

May we ever wait upon Thee for they who wait upon the Lord shall be strong and of good courage.

Inspire us with a sense of our personal and individual responsibility in the building of a civilization in which righteousness and justice, good will and brotherhood are given the place of preeminence.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1956

ALMIGHTY GOD, OUR CREATOR AND BENEFACTOR, inspire us during this Brotherhood Week with a clear vision of the high and helpful things that we are privileged to do together for the welfare of all mankind.

Grant that, as brothers of the Son of Man, our minds and hearts may be inpervious to those attitudes and feelings of prejudice and pride, of dislike and indifference, which we know are so alien and contrary to His spirit.

We pray that, as we engage in the great enterprise of building the temple of world peace, we may seek to do Thy will and help us to hasten that glorious day of prediction when men shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks and nations shall learn war no more.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1956

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, help us daily to sense the privilege and opportunity of sharing in the glorious task of bringing the members of the human family into a peaceful and happy relationship.

We penitently confess that we are frequently very selfish and self-centered and very thoughtless and indifferent toward a world that has in it so many desperate needs and longings.

Make us more eager to cultivate and speak the language of the heart, the language of understanding and appreciation, of considerateness and kindness, of brotherhood and good will.

Inspire us to think and act in terms of humanity and to make a helpful contribution to the welfare and blessedness of men and nations everywhere.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1956

O THOU WHO WERT THE GOD OF OUR FATHERS, we thank Thee for this day in the calendar of our national history, commemorating the birth of one whom we affectionately call the Father of Our Country.

We are seeking to pay honor and tribute to the memory of that noble patriot who stood like a giant among his contemporaries and made an indelible impression upon his own and succeeding generations.

Grant that the memory of his illustrious qualities of character, his lofty idealism, his sturdy commonsense, his skill in statesmanship and diplomacy, his fidelity to the principles of righteousness and justice, and his faith in divine providence may never become eclipsed or pass into oblivion.

May this not only be a day of commemoration but of consecration when we are resolving to give wholehearted devotion to those ideals which were resident and regnant in the soul of George Washington.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 1956

ETERNAL GOD, OUR FATHER, who hast been our shield in the stillness of the night, guide us now by Thy divine wisdom and gird us with Thy strength as we set our minds and hearts to the tasks of this new day.

May this Lenten season upon which we have entered daily become richer and more glorious in the culture and deepening of our spiritual life.

Cleanse our souls of all unrighteousness and grant that through self-examination and self-discipline we may gain the mastery over those desires and habits which are contrary to Thy holy will.

Help us to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, from whom to turn away is to fall but in whom to abide is to stand fast forever.

To Thy name we ascribe all the praise. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 1956

ALMIGHTY GOD, whose blessings are countless, may we daily enter with Thee into an intimate fellowship and have a vivid experience of Thy love and peace.

May we remember Thy mercies and be thankful; may we be mindful of our failures and weaknesses and be humble; may we be conscious of Thy grace and goodness and be hopeful.

Inspire us to meet our tasks and responsibilities, our trials and tribulations, calmly and confidently, assured of Thy presence to direct and strengthen us in the ways of righteousness.

Grant that in all our human relationships we may manifest a spirit that is gracious and gentle, kind and considerate, eager to minister to the needs of others and to help them bear their burdens.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, MARCH 2, 1956

ETERNAL GOD, OUR FATHER, inspire us to discharge the duties and responsibilities of this day with minds that are graciously illumined by Thy divine wisdom and the light of Thy presence.

Confirm us in the faith that Thou wilt not leave us to depend upon our own finite understanding and the limitations of our human weaknesses or the expediencies and counsels of men.

Grant that we may never be troubled with doubts and fears concerning the morrow for Thou wilt always keep us in perfect peace if our minds and hearts are stayed on Thee.

May the revelations of Thy sustaining grace make us strong and valiant for truth and righteousness and fill us with the glad assurance that a blessed day is coming when the hatreds among men shall be changed into love and their enmities shall be supplanted by the spirit of good will.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 6, 1956

O THOU HOLY SPIRIT OF THE LIVING GOD, may our character and conduct this day come under the influence of Thy gracious ministry, elevating and charging us with courage and power and making us serene and trustful.

Kindle within our minds and hearts those impulses and desires which are pure and holy and those attitudes toward our fellow men which are kind and sympathetic.

May there be among all the members of the human family a sense of spiritual kinship and brotherhood, inspiring them to seek one another's welfare and to break down every superficial manmade barrier.

Show us how we may be partners with Thee in the glorious enterprise of bringing in the day of peace and good will.

In Christ's name we offer our petition. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 7, 1956

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast made us the heirs and beneficiaries of Thy divine bounty, grant that in all the hours of this day we may have the inspiration of Thy companionship and sustaining grace.

May our plans and purposes always reflect the spirit of our blessed Lord and may our whole life be in tune with the true, the beautiful, and the good.

Emancipate us from all fears and worries and may our vision of the highest and noblest never become dimmed or eclipsed by worldly compromise and petty ambitions.

Make us more confident of Thy greatness and goodness and more assured of Thy faithfulness as we strive to follow in the way of Thy commandments.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

MONDAY, MARCH 12, 1956

ALMIGHTY GOD, who art always graciously guarding and guiding us, may we daily commit ourselves resolutely and gladly to the wise and beneficent dispensations of Thy divine providence.

We penitently confess that we are frequently so easily daunted and frightened in the search and struggle to make our way through the darkness and uncertainties of this mortal life.

Grant that it may be the goal of all our aspirations to give ourselves unreservedly to the glorious task of doing Thy will.

Hear us in the name of our blessed Lord. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 1956

ETERNAL GOD, OUR FATHER, in this moment of prayer we are again beseeching Thee to manifest Thy favor and grace unto all who have been entrusted with the responsibilities of leadership in the affairs of government.

Grant that we may always yield our finite minds to Thy divine mind and follow the ways which Thou hast marked out for us.

Inspire and constrain us to cleave with increasing tenacity of faith to the glorious assurances that Thou art our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble.

May we daily grow in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, whom to know aright is life eternal. Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 1956

ALMIGHTY GOD, with a humble spirit and a contrite heart we are now imploring Thee for wisdom and guidance as we face the tasks of this new day.

Inspire us to believe that as our days so also shall be our strength and that no good thing wilt Thou withhold from those who walk uprightly.

Give us patience and perseverance, courage and confidence, and may we never turn coward before any of life's difficulties or recreant to any of its duties.

Bless our Congress and all councils and assemblies which are seeking to promote the spirit of concord and amity among the nations of the earth.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 1956

ALMIGHTY GOD, in the morning hour of this new day of opportunity and duty, we would render unto Thee our prayers of praise and thanksgiving and renew our pledges of allegiance and devotion.

Grant that we may always seek to live on the highest and noblest levels, having our minds and hearts sensitive and responsive to the voice of conscience and the leading of Thy holy spirit.

We beseech Thee to raise up for these perilous times men and women who are rigidly honest, unswervingly loyal to principles, and faithfully devoted to their high vocation and appointed tasks.

Inspire us with a triumphant faith as we continue to struggle for the welfare and freedom of all mankind and keep us joyously undisturbed in the midst of life's confusions because of Thy grace and our trust in Thee.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, MARCH 27, 1956

GOD OF ALL GRACE AND GOODNESS, who hast bestowed upon our beloved country so many material blessings, may we show forth our gratitude by a resurgence of faith in Thee and a glad obedience to Thy holy will.

Help us to feel that our national greatness cannot survive and continue to occupy a commanding place among the nations of the earth if we allow it to become eclipsed by a decline in moral and spiritual idealism.

May our Republic be inspired to fulfill its responsibilities for the welfare and happiness of all mankind and strive to make a distinct and worthy contribution to the wealth of human aspirations and achievements.

Grant that our leaders and chosen representatives may daily be blessed with a sense of divine guidance in their arduous task of finding the right solution to our difficult national and international problems.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 1956

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, in this moment of prayer, we are coming unto Thee in the spirit of penitence and confession, of praise and adoration, of supplication and intercession.

We beseech Thee to give us a more vivid sense of our filial relationship to Thee and may we seek to be one with Thee in the thoughts of our minds, the desires of our hearts, and the endeavors of our lives.

May we also cultivate a deeper appreciation and understanding of our fraternal relationship to mankind everywhere and may all attitudes of contempt and hatred toward others be supplanted by feelings of considerateness and love.

Grant that this Holy Week, reminding us of the sufferings and death of our blessed Lord, and the Easter season, commemorating His resurrection, may inspire us to rise with Him in newness of life and give ourselves more sacrificially to the glorious task of building a finer and nobler civilization in which men and nations shall live together in peace and good will.

Hear us in the name of our crucified Saviour and risen Lord. Amen.

MONDAY, APRIL 9, 1956

ALMIGHTY GOD, OUR FATHER, by whose mercies we are spared and by whose power we are sustained, we thank Thee for Thy protecting care over us during the Easter recess.

Grant that our Speaker and the Members of the Congress may now be abundantly blessed with renewed strength and wisdom as they again turn to their high vocation and the particular business of statecraft.

May we daily feel that it is Thy work in which we are engaged and may it be the goal of all our aspirations and endeavors to be faithful stewards of Thy manifold grace and obedient servants of Thy holy will.

Help us never to interpret the reality and value of life merely in terms of its duration but always by its devotion and consecration to lofty principles and our donations and contributions to the welfare and happiness of all mankind.

To Thy name we ascribe all the praise. Amen.

TUESDAY, APRIL 10, 1956

GOD OF ALL GRACE AND GOODNESS, inspire us now to wholeheartedly dedicate and devote our capacities and talents, our energies and resources, to the best possible use in solving effectively and rightly our many national and international problems.

We penitently confess that we are frequently indifferent and satisfied with doing and giving our second best for those causes which challenge and demand the consecration of our noblest manhood and womanhood.

Encourage us to go forward bravely and fearlessly in the great adventure of building for humanity a new world of righteousness and justice, of peace and good will.

May we have within us more of the faith and fortitude of the Founding Fathers and daily bear witness to a spirit which places its confidence in the Lord God omnipotent.

Hear us in the name of the Captain of Our Salvation. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 1956

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast been our help in ages past and art our hope for years to come, we rejoice that Thou art able and willing to make our minds and hearts the dwelling place of Thy peace and power.

We pray that we may have that courageous and conquering spirit which knows how to meet and master all the mountains of doubt and difficulty, of fear and frustration, of trial and tribulation.

Grant unto us a greater feeling of sympathy for the suffering and sorrowing and make us eager to share our blessings with all Thy needy children who are finding the struggle of life so strenuous.

Direct us with Thy counsel during the deliberations and decisions of this day and may we seek to establish among all the members of the human family a happier and more peaceful relationship.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 1956

O THOU WHO ART THE SOURCE OF THE TRUE, the splendor of the beautiful, and the strength of the good, we are again coming unto Thee through the old and familiar way of prayer, compelled by our needs and constrained by Thy love.

Grant that we may have a faith that is humble and courageous as we seek to minister and mediate unto all mankind the blessings of peace and prosperity.

Inspire us to give ourselves earnestly and eagerly to the leading of Thy spirit and may we make a more daring trial of the moral and spiritual resources which Thou hast placed at our disposal.

Fill us daily with a fervent desire and a strong determination to build a social order in which justice and righteousness, good will and brotherhood shall reign supremely.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 1956

O THOU WHO ART THE SUPREME SOURCE of wisdom and strength, of truth and righteousness, may we daily surrender ourselves completely and confidently unto Thy divine guidance as we strive to find our way through darkness to light, through despair to hope, and through defeat to victory.

Give us a clear and comprehensive understanding of the needs of humanity and may the moral and spiritual principles and powers which Thou hast ordained soon become gloriously triumphant.

Inspire us to dedicate ourselves as devotedly to the high calling of preserving and perpetuating our freedoms as the founders of our Republic gave themselves to the task of establishing them.

Hear us in the name of our blessed Lord who went about doing good. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 25, 1956

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast made us for Thyself, grant that during the hours of this day we may be guided by Thy Holy Spirit in the ways of truth and strengthened for every task.

Thou knowest how frequently we are beset by fears and doubts which rob us of peace and assailed by worries and weaknesses which undermine our character and corrupt the spirit within.

Enable us by Thy grace to cultivate a faith that is calm and may we never waver when tempted to any unworthy action.

Deepen and increase among mankind the spirit of neighborliness and helpfulness that in times of peril we may uphold one another, in calamity serve one another, in sorrow comfort one another, and in suffering and distress encourage one another.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 1956

ETERNAL AND EVER-BLESSED GOD, grant that in these days of stress and strain, of uncertainty and confusion we may have an unfaltering trust in Thy kind and gracious providence.

We humbly confess that we are often disquieted and very cowardly when confronted by new and difficult tasks and trying circumstances.

Give us a larger measure of those moral and spiritual resources which are sufficient for our many needs and adequate for all the demands that are daily made upon us.

Help us to bring our whole life under such a complete control and glad commitment to Thy Spirit that we shall always be steadfast in the face of temptation, unafraid in times of peril, and unwearied in hope.

Now unto Him, who is able to keep us from falling and present us faultless before Thy presence, be glory and honor, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 1, 1956

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, we beseech Thee to give us this day the wisdom to make the right decisions and courage to maintain them steadfastly.

Inspire us with the glad assurance that Thou art our refuge and strength, a very present help in time of trouble, and that righteousness cannot fail.

Show us how we may keep sacred and inviolate our glorious heritage and may we be blessed with that sense of serenity and security which comes to those who put their faith in Thee.

Grant that we may be true for there are those who trust us; may we be pure for there are those who care; may we be strong for there is much to suffer; may we be brave for there is much to dare.

We thank Thee for the life and character of Thy servant who has entered the house of the Lord and now dwells with Thee in eternal blessedness. Thou hast opened unto him the doorway to the larger life and received him into Thy nearer presence.

To Thy name we ascribe all the praise. Amen.

MONDAY, MAY 7, 1956

O THOU WHO ART ALWAYS AT OUR SIDE in times of difficulty and danger and in days of triumph and achievement, make us more conscious of Thy presence as our companion and counselor.

Grant that in our moments of prayer we may open our inner life widely to the inflow and influence of Thy divine spirit.

May our troubled minds be quieted, our sinful hearts be cleansed, and our selfish wills be brought into a glad obedience to Thy perfect will.

Inspire us to meet our tasks and responsibilities with a strong faith and a hope that is courageous and cheerful.

Help us daily to follow Thy leading with a fuller measure of dedication and devotion to the cause of righteousness and peace.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 8, 1956

ALMIGHTY GOD, at the noon hour of this new day, we are coming unto Thee for wisdom and guidance for Thou alone art our light when we walk in darkness and our only source of courage and hope when we are haunted by fears.

We beseech Thee to illumine our minds with insight and understanding and lift our hearts to loftier heights of joy and peace.

Grant that we may never yield to doubt and despair but make us confident that Thou hast for all mankind a great and glorious purpose.

May we seek to bring to fulfillment that wise and beneficent purpose by accepting Thy blessings as a sacred trust and using them as contributions with which to minister to the needs of humanity.

Inspire us daily to rejoice in Thy abounding grace and goodness, which is always willing to forgive us when we have sinned and to restore us to Thy fellowship when we have gone astray.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9, 1956

O THOU INFINITE AND ETERNAL GOD, our creator and benefactor, who hast made us for Thyself, we beseech Thee to give us a humble spirit and a contrite heart as we again seek Thy blessing and favor in this fellowship of prayer.

Thine is the love which redeems us, the strength which sustains us, the providence which surrounds us, the beauty which attracts us, and the grace which is sufficient for all our needs.

We pray that Thou wilt take our wills and make them thine, transforming our groping and faltering spirits into centers of light and loveliness and into channels of peace and power.

Grant that we may long to be worthy citizens of Thy heavenly kingdom, men and women of invincible good will and fellow workers with Thee in building a social order in which the principle of righteousness shall prevail and the law of love shall be victorious over hatred and strife.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 16, 1956

ALMIGHTY AND ETERNAL GOD, whose thoughts toward us are always those of love and peace, we pray that daily our minds and hearts may be penetrated and permeated with a spirit that is akin to the spirit of our blessed Lord.

Give us those nobler feelings and attitudes which are the progenitors of insight and inspiration in achieving and building a better world.

Show us how we may release the hidden splendor of humanity and bring to fulfillment every lofty desire and aspiration which Thou hast planted within the soul of man.

Grant that the legislation that shall be proposed and enacted may bear clear and convincing testimony that the Members of the Congress are seeking the highest welfare of our country and all mankind.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 17, 1956

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast been our guardian in the night, may we go forth into the hours of this new day with confidence, for Thou art our strength in weakness, our light in darkness, our joy in sorrow, and our hope in doubt and despair.

Grant that Thy loving kindness toward us may always be followed by our obedience toward Thee.

May this be a day when our hearts shall be kindled with an earnest desire to cultivate a spirit of friendship and good will toward a republic which is seeking a larger measure of freedom and security and a greater opportunity for growth and self-realization.

Inspire us with a sense of our need of Thy sustaining presence, for without the guidance of Thy divine spirit all our searchings and strivings for truth are futile and all our longings and labors for peace are fruitless.

Help us to hasten the coming of that blessed day when there shall be friendship and fraternity among all nations.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

TUESDAY, MAY 29, 1956

ALMIGHTY GOD, in whom we live and move and have our being, we praise Thee for the gift of life, its wonder and mystery, its beauty and glory, its joys and pleasures, its fellowships and friendships, and its opportunities for service.

We beseech Thee to inspire and sustain us with a sense of Thy divine presence and power as we again assemble in this Chamber to discharge the duties and responsibilities of our high vocation.

May we perform every task faithfully and diligently and whenever we fail or falter, through ignorance or weakness, may Thy fatherly wisdom correct us and Thy infinite mercy forgive us.

Grant that our beloved Speaker and the members of his bereaved family may continue to be blessed with the consolation and certainty of Thy grace as they seek to carry on courageously.

We thank Thee for their humble and confident spirit which is not murmuring or complaining but yielding itself with due resignation and patience unto all Thy righteous dealings and the wise dispensations of Thy divine providence.

To Thy name we ascribe all the glory. Amen.

THURSDAY, MAY 31, 1956

ETERNAL GOD, OUR FATHER, who art daily bestowing upon us the manifold blessings of Thy grace and goodness, help us to feel that it is our highest wisdom to enthrone Thy will and our noblest responsibility to establish the kingdom of justice and righteousness upon the earth.

Show us how to promote the spirit of understanding and unity in the heart of humanity and may all the members of the human family be bound to one another in mutual concern, seeking together those blessings which none can ever find or enjoy alone.

Grant that we may never yield ourselves to the enervating and debasing attitudes of the cynic and the defeatist, who would have us believe that our search for peace and good will is a forlorn quest and hope.

Make us more acutely sensitive and more eagerly responsive to Thy voice, calling us to give ourselves with courage and devotion to the task of safeguarding the heritage of freedom which we are privileged to enjoy.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 4, 1956

O THOU WHO ART ALWAYS WILLING AND ABLE to bless us according to our needs, may we begin this new week with gladness and gratitude and continue it with calmness and courage.

Grant that in all our plans and purposes to serve our generation we may be inspired by the loftiest motives and employ the noblest means.

Show us how we may minister more effectively and efficiently to the welfare of all humanity, giving wise counsel to the baffled and perplexed, consolation to the sorrowing, companionship to the lonely, and strength to the burdened.

May we daily have within our hearts the joy of knowing that we are living useful and helpful lives and making a worthy contribution to a real and right solution of mankind's many difficult problems.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6, 1956

ALMIGHTY GOD, who alone art acquainted with our many needs and knowest that we are not sufficient of ourselves to meet them, grant that in our walk and work during this day we may be guided by Thy infallible wisdom and guarded by Thy infinite power.

We beseech Thee to bless our President, our Speaker, and the Members of the Congress with Thy bountiful grace and prosper all the efforts that

are being made to maintain our country's honor and security, health and strength.

May the hardships and adversities, which we are encountering in the great adventure of establishing peace on earth, never cause us to doubt Thy care or disturb our faith in Thee, but may we be strong and of good courage, assured that Thy divine providence will continue to protect and preserve us.

Hear us in Thy love and mercy through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 1956

O THOU WHO DIDST WATCH OVER US during the night and hast brought us to this new day, we rejoice that Thou art willing to accept our prayer and answer every sincere petition.

We pray that our whole life may be adorned with the noble virtues of gratitude and humility, of patience and perseverance, of fidelity and courage, of love and good will.

Defend and fortify our minds and hearts against the devastating moods of cynicism and doubt. May we always be disposed to follow Thee in faith and in faithfulness.

Guide us in the difficult decisions which we are daily called upon to make and may we discharge all our duties and responsibilities in devout obedience to Thy holy will.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, JUNE 8, 1956

ALMIGHTY GOD, who art our gracious benefactor, grant that we may be more worthy and appreciative of the innumerable blessings which Thou art continually bestowing upon us.

We pray that our President, our Speaker, and our chosen representatives, the Members of Congress, may be richly blessed with health of body and wisdom of mind to sustain and guide them in all their plans and labors to safeguard our freedom.

May they be fearless and faithful, never losing heart or hope, but always manifesting and maintaining an unfailing trust in Thy divine sovereignty.

Inspire us daily to pray and work for the coming of that time of world peace, when nations everywhere shall live in unity and concord, seeking in true fellowship and friendship the temporal and spiritual welfare of all mankind.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

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MONDAY, JUNE 11, 1956

ALMIGHTY GOD, humbly and reverently we are turning unto Thee in the sacred attitude of prayer for we have needs and longings which Thou alone canst supply and satisfy.

We earnestly implore Thee to endue us with insight and inspiration that we may interpret wisely and understand correctly all the events and experiences of this new day.

Inspire us with that sense of moral dignity and feeling of spiritual freedom which are begotten of simple faith in Thee and faithful service to needy humanity.

Hear us as we continue our supplications and intercessions for our President. We beseech Thee, in Thy great mercy, to share Thy wisdom with the doctors and nurses enabling them, in their ministry, to know what to do for his complete recovery.

We bring our petition in the name of our Blessed Lord, the Great Physician. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 1956

O THOU GREAT GOD OF MEN AND OF NATIONS, we rejoice that in the calendar of our national life there are many special days which we commemorate and celebrate with feelings of pride and patriotism.

Grant that this day, which we call Flag Day, may inspire and kindle within our minds and hearts a greater love and loyalty for our country and its democracy.

Make us more truly grateful for Thou hast given us a goodly heritage and hast not dealt so bountifully and graciously with any nation.

Wherever our flag is unfurled may it be the symbol of justice and righteousness and the glorious herald of proclaiming the dawning of a new day of freedom and peace for all mankind.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 18, 1956

ETERNAL GOD, OUR FATHER, whose goodness we cannot doubt and whose guidance we dare not disobey, may we begin this new week with minds and hearts that are inclined and intent upon bringing all our plans and purposes into harmony with Thy holy will.

Inspire us with those desires and aspirations which Thou dost delight to satisfy and fill us with courage and confidence, for if God be for us, who can be against us.

Show us how we may fortify ourselves against fear and frustration and be lifted above life's confusions and seeming contradictions.

Help us to be patient and strong in bearing and enduring whatever burdens and hardships may come to us as we seek to follow the way of blessedness which Thou hast ordained and marked out for us.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 19, 1956

O THOU GOD OF MAJESTY AND MERCY, constrain us now by Thy grace to approach Thy throne with a humble spirit and a contrite heart.

May we come in penitence for we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God but may we also come with gratitude for Thou art willing to forgive and blot out all our transgressions and remember them no more against us.

Grant that daily our life may be touched with more of the brotherly spirit which will enable us to look at struggling and suffering humanity through the eyes of clarity and consideration, of sympathy and kindness.

Help us so to live and labor that when our day is ended and our work is finished we may leave a legacy of faith and fidelity, of love and loyalty, and receive the blessings and benediction which Thou dost bestow upon the faithful.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20, 1956

ALMIGHTY GOD, in this moment of prayer, may we come nearer unto Thee than we have ever known and may our human wills be made one with Thine in a bond of unity that can never be broken.

Grant that we may also be more firmly and closely united with one another in our plans and purposes to achieve for all mankind the blessings of a freer and fuller life.

Inspire us to search and struggle earnestly for that blessed day of universal peace when the tyrannies which oppress and the terrors which affright the soul of man shall be dethroned and destroyed and supplanted by the spirit of truth and righteousness.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 1956

ETERNAL GOD, OUR FATHER, who art our refuge and redemption, and whose truth is our light and hope, may we now worship Thee with eager minds and earnest hearts, gratefully acknowledging Thy goodness and our dependence upon Thee.

Emancipate us from all fears and anxieties and inspire us with a greater faith in Thy immeasurable love which always sustains us and Thy unfathomable care which always surrounds us.

We rejoice that when we are discouraged and disturbed in spirit we may bring our burdens and sorrows unto Thee and carry away a song and receive a new joy which defies despair.

Show us how we may cultivate a more vital and healing sympathy for struggling humanity, a nobler skill in doing good, and a finer art of insight and understanding for all who are baffled and perplexed by life's untoward happenings and vicissitudes.

In Christ's name we offer our prayer. Amen.

MONDAY, JUNE 25, 1956

ALMIGHTY GOD, may we now come unto Thee in a truly prayerful spirit, humbly acknowledging how much we need Thee and also confidently realizing that Thou art able and willing to supply all our needs.

Grant that in the midst of the miseries and mysteries, the confusions and changes of life, we may have the patience and perseverance to wait for new and further revelations of Thy love and care.

We pray that the democracy, which we are seeking to establish, may be more magnanimous and unselfish in its feelings and purposes and more extensive in its fellowship and influence.

Inspire us with a faith and courage to break down all the barriers which prevent any of the nations and members of the human family from possessing and enjoying the blessings of freedom and peace.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 1956

O THOU WHO ART DAILY seeking to reveal Thy way and Thy will unto us, we pray that we may be delivered from all cold and callous tempers of mind and heart.

Grant that we may now feel the touch of Thy divine spirit, cleansing and transforming our human spirit into the likeness of the Son of God and leading all humanity in the path of truth and righteousness.

Help us to appreciate and understand more clearly that mankind is one family and that without striving for the common good, no race, no country, no individual can attain unto fullness of life and blessedness.

Show us how the nations of the earth may live and labor together in harmony and favor and may our own beloved country have a great and glorious part in mobilizing those moral and spiritual forces which will banish forever the bitter hatreds, the cruel enmities, the antipathies, the suspicions, the prejudices, and the age-old rancors.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 27, 1956

ALMIGHTY GOD, may the hours of this new day upon which we have entered be rich and radiant in the realization of Thy presence, Thy peace, and Thy power.

Grant that, as the stewards of time and of talents, we may seek, in faithful service, to bring to fulfillment and fruition every noble aspiration and longing which Thou hast planted within our souls.

We pray that when we are fearful for our safety and security and seem to be the victims of a conspiracy of evil circumstances, we may lay hold of those moral resources which will make us equal to the demands of any occasion.

Impart unto us a larger measure of the gifts of spiritual vision which will enable us to look beyond the present perils to Thy all-encompassing grace and goodness.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JUNE 28, 1956

O THOU WHO ART ALWAYS INCLINING OUR HEARTS to come unto Thee in the fellowship of prayer, inspire us now with a vision of the worth and sanctity of this new day.

We humbly confess that in thinking of our days with their mornings and evenings, their problems and tasks, we frequently find so much that baffles and perplexes us.

May we receive Thy divine wisdom and guidance to discern each day's meaning and mission and to know what is best for ourselves, for our country, and all mankind.

Grant that our faith in the triumph of Thy righteous purposes may never grow dim or become eclipsed by doubt or fear, but may we believe in Thy sovereign power.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

FRIDAY, JUNE 29, 1956

O THOU ETERNAL SPIRIT, unto whom all hearts are open and all desires known, may we now be numbered among the seekers and finders of God.

We pray that we may daily assemble here, not primarily to argue and maneuver for the victory of our personal opinions but to yield ourselves to They divine guidance and to seek to know the mind of God.

Grant that, before we legislate and make any decision during these dark and troublous days, this Chamber may be for each of us a listening place where we shall catch the inspiration of Thy spirit.

Make us more eager to hear and heed Thy voice revealing Thy will and showing us how best we may discharge all our tasks and responsibilities.

To Thy name we ascribe all the praise. Amen.

TUESDAY, JULY 3, 1956

ALMIGHTY GOD, who art always seeking to draw us within the circuit and compass of Thy divine fellowship, may that memorable day in our national history, which we call Independence Day, stir us with a greater devotion to Thee and our beloved country.

We thank Thee for the indomitable faith and fortitude, the lofty aspirations and hopes which filled the minds and hearts of those heroes and patriots who achieved liberty for their own and succeeding generations.

Grant that in all our plans and purposes to build a great and glorious nation we may have Thy guidance and be inspired with a faith that never wavers and a courage that never falters.

We are not asking Thee to deal with our Republic in any preferential manner, but that we may be loyal partners with all who are striving to bring in that blessed day when nations shall live together in a commonwealth of free men, enjoying a peace that is honorable, just, and righteous.

And under Thy name we ascribe all majesty, dominion, and power, now and forever and ever. Amen.

THURSDAY, JULY 5, 1956

ETERNAL GOD, OUR FATHER, whose infallible wisdom is the guide of our minds and whose infinite love is the joy of our hearts, we invoke the blessings of Thy grace and favor.

May the hours of this new day be hallowed with a sense of Thy companionship and counsel which will fortify us against fear and frustration.

Grant that we may be courageous to seek and faithful to labor for that blessed day when there shall be a spirit of good will among all nations.

Help us to believe that no lofty ideal vouchsafed to our human souls is too high and too holy to be fulfilled by Thy love and power.

Humbly and gratefully we offer our prayer in the name of the Christ, our Saviour. Amen.

FRIDAY, JULY 6, 1956

ALMIGHTY GOD, whose love and care are universal, as we enter upon this new day may we be blessed with an insight that is equal to the special issues which now confront us.

We rejoice that in Thee we may find the inspiration and the sanction, the faith and the freedom to preserve and perpetuate the democratic way of life, which is not only our priceless heritage but the glorious hope for the whole human race.

Help us to understand more clearly that our beloved country will prove unworthy of leadership in democracy, which has been entrusted to us, if we fail to place the welfare of all mankind above our own personal interests.

Grant that daily our minds and hearts may be tempered with the noble spirit of forbearance and brotherhood, of sympathy and cooperation, and may all our capacities and capabilities be dedicated to the service of the common good.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

SATURDAY, JULY 7, 1956

ETERNAL GOD, who hast given our beloved country a great and glorious mission, may we daily be more conscious of our duty and destiny therein.

Inspire us with a vivid sense of the worth and dignity of life and may we make a significant and distinct contribution to the wealth of human ideals and the blessedness of all mankind.

Grant that our Republic may be rich in the virtues and gifts of enterprise and adventure, of good will and generosity, and may we be guided by Thy spirit in helping humanity find its true and better self.

Unite us in faith and hope, in longing and aspiration, with our fellow men everywhere who are striving to build the temple of peace and a nobler civilization.

Hear us in the name of the Christ. Amen.

TUESDAY, JULY 10, 1956

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, we thank Thee for the privilege of prayer and its power to fortify and strengthen us when the struggle of life is difficult and our problems are hard to solve.

We humbly acknowledge that our minds are frequently thronged with a multitude of disturbing and disconcerting thoughts and we feel ourselves wavering between conflicting and opposite decisions.

Constrain us with a determination to bring all our plans and purposes, our desires and longings, into harmony with Thy divine will, in which is our peace.

Grant that we may be eager to invoke and worthy to receive Thy blessing and benediction upon everything which we shall endeavor to do during this day for the welfare of our country and all mankind.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

THURSDAY, JULY 12, 1956

GOD OF ALL GRACE AND GOODNESS, grant that in these dark and doubtful days we may turn to Thee for light and leading and discover the power and possibilities of prayer.

Inspire us with a daring faith and an unconquerable hope and may we see our duties clearly and discharge them without fear or favor.

May we never be merely content with the deductions and conclusions of our minds but may we be blessed with those spiritual revelations and intuitions which will make us feel instinctively that we are obeying and doing Thy will.

Help us for our joy and strength to strive more earnestly to bring the power of lofty ideals to bear on our everyday life and daily give witness that we belong to an eternal fellowship.

Hear us in the name of the Christ who is our eternal contemporary. Amen.

MONDAY, JULY 16, 1956

ALMIGHTY GOD, who art the source of our highest joy and the satisfaction of our deepest needs, we beseech Thee, in all simplicity and sincerity, that we may begin, continue, and end this new week with Thee and in the spirit of our blessed Lord.

Give us a restful spirit and a calm mind and strength within as we try to meet courageously and confidently each day's duties and demands.

Grant that in the bewildering experiences of these times we may yield ourselves completely to the sovereignty of Thy divine will whose appeal we cannot deny and whose authority we cannot doubt.

Inspire our minds and hearts with a lofty social idealism, and may we know what is wisest and best for our beloved country and strive to find a just and righteous solution to all the problems of human relationships.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

TUESDAY, JULY 17, 1956

ETERNAL GOD, OUR FATHER, may the memory of Thy sustaining grace and goodness in all our yesterdays inspire us to meet the tasks and challenging responsibilities of this new day with indomitable faith and invincible courage.

We are bringing unto Thee our sins and shortcomings, our insurgent impulses and our inordinate desires, beseeching Thee that our minds and hearts may be purged and purified.

May our groping and faltering spirits daily be brought under the spell and sway of Thy divine spirit to be touched and transformed to nobler and finer issues.

Grant that we may believe that the prospects for the final triumph of truth and righteousness are as radiant and glorious as the promises of the Lord God omnipotent.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 18, 1956

ALMIGHTY GOD, our creator and benefactor, we rejoice that the coming in and the going out of all our days are in Thy gracious keeping and control.

Grant that in a spirit of gladness and gratitude we may express our appreciation of the many glorious opportunities which this new day has brought us for self-culture and service.

May it be a day when the thoughts of our mind, the words of our mouth, and the labor of our hands shall be acceptable and well pleasing unto Thee.

Inspire us to walk and work with one another in the strength of minds illumined by Thy divine wisdom and in the joy of hearts warmed by Thy divine love.

May our vision of a blessed social order be so clear and commanding that we shall feel constrained and compelled to make every effort and sacrifice to bring it to fulfillment.

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

FRIDAY, JULY 20, 1956

ETERNAL AND EVER-BLESSED GOD, through Thy grace and power our forefathers gained the freedom and the liberties which we now enjoy as a priceless heritage.

Grant that we and all succeeding generations may preserve and perpetuate those blessings in righteousness and in honor.

We humbly acknowledge that again and again, in our domestic affairs and foreign relations, we find it necessary to make decisions which seem to involve tremendous risks.

God forbid that we should ever hesitate or be afraid to take the adventurous ways of faith and follow Thy leading.

Inspire us daily to wait upon the Lord and be of good courage for where Thou dost guide Thou wilt provide.

Hear us in the name of the Captain of our Salvation. Amen.

SATURDAY, JULY 21, 1956

O THOU WHO HAST CREATED US AND REVEALED THYSELF as the guiding intelligence, may we appreciate more fully how wonderful and sacred it is that daily we may enter into counsel and companionship with the God of infallible wisdom.

We penitently confess that we so frequently take counsel with our fears and personal desires and place our confidence solely in human ingenuity.

Wilt Thou bless us as we continue to pray and labor for that glorious day of prediction when nations shall learn war no more and men shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks.

Deliver us from all cynical and despondent tempers of mind as we think of that prophecy and may we never be tempted to feel that universal peace is merely an illusion and a forlorn hope.

Inspire us with the rapture of the forward look and the courage to believe that the time is coming when men and nations shall be organized into a league of friendly minds and hearts.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

MONDAY, JULY 23, 1956

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast entrusted Thy servants, our President, our Speaker, and our chosen Representatives with the high vocation of leadership in the business of statecraft, grant that they may always sense the sanctity of their duties and responsibilities.

May they daily come to the sacrament of public service with clear minds and courageous hearts and be led by Thy divine spirit into new ventures of faith and new vistas of outlook as they seek to achieve the triumph of justice and righteousness.

We pray that the blessings of peace and prosperity may be extended and become the joyous possession of all the struggling and suffering members of the human family.

Inspire us in these troublous days to be the messengers and mediators of helpfulness and hopefulness and may our personal character and conduct be to others a source of strength and encouragement.

Hear us in the name of our blessed Lord who went about doing good. Amen.

TUESDAY, JULY 24, 1956

GOD OF INFINITE GRACE AND GOODNESS, from whom cometh our help and our hope, Thou knowest how weak we are in faith and how hesitatingly and wistfully we often enter upon a new day.

May we now fervently beseech Thee to gird us with a capacity to see all our tasks in their right perspective and with courage to discharge them faithfully and without fear.

Bless us with the glad assurance that nothing can ever impede the progress and the onward march of the forces of truth and righteousness and that a day is dawning when they shall be gloriously victorious.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 25, 1956

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast blessed us with the gift of a new day, grant that during all its hours we may seek the higher and nobler levels of living.

May we have the insight and the inspiration, the skill and the energy, to make this day radiant and vibrant with that which is beautiful and best.

We pray that we may never look upon the work in which we are engaged as just a job, but as a joy and an opportunity to have a part and a place in the vast areas of human service and in the building of a better world.

Make us realize more fully that man cannot live by bread alone and that it is not enough to help him gain economic snd social security, but that he needs that inner spiritual security which comes from faith and trust in Thee.

Hear us in the name of our blessed Lord who came to give us the abundant life. Amen.

THURSDAY, JULY 26, 1956

MOST MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS GOD, Thou knowest that daily we are challenged by great issues and perplexing problems, but may we always meet them with courage and conviction and a splendor of faith that nothing can dim or eclipse.

Purge us from everything that dwarfs and dulls our capacity for noble service, and may our minds and hearts be impervious to all selfish desires.

Show us how we may build a more blessed social order and may we never be too callous to care, too blind to see, and too indifferent to heed the needs of humanity.

Help us to hasten the coming of that glorious day of prediction, when there shall be peace on earth and good will among men.

Hear us in the name of the Prince of Peace. Amen.

FRIDAY, JULY 27, 1956

ALMIGHTY GOD, grant that on this closing day of the 84th Congress, our President, our Speaker, and every Member of this legislative body and all of us as officers, clerks, reporters, secretaries, pages, and employees, in whatever capacity, may be grateful for having had the privilege of walking and working together in the service of our God, our country, and humanity.

May we have within our minds and hearts the testimony that we have sought to discharge our duties with a pure and steadfast devotion and have aspired to be worthy of receiving the benediction of Thy peace and the diadem of Thy praise, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

We are commending and committing one another to Thy love and care, beseeching Thee that daily we may go forth in the joy and strength of doing justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly with the Lord, our God.

May the Lord bless us and keep us; the Lord make His face to shine upon us and be gracious unto us; the Lord lift upon us the light of His countenance and give us peace.

Hear us in Christ's name. Amen.

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